NEWS / A18-19
Complete list of new doctors

SPORTS / A25
Toni told: Look forward to London 2012

WORLD / A23
Obama hints at VP but won't divulge choice

NEWS / A2
DOJ files syndicated estafa raps vs Meralco for meter deposits

Medical board topnotcher plans to go to America

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MARLON D. GARCIA
Topnotch smile

FOR 26-YEAR-OLD Marlon Diaz-Garcia, acing the medical board examinations was a sign that he was meant to seek greener pastures abroad.

Garcia, who topped the exams with an average grade of 86.75, said he had only hoped to make it to the Top 10.

MEDICAL A16

Thai king world's richest royal—Forbes magazine

NEW YORK—WITH A FORTUNE ESTIMATED at $35 billion, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the world's richest royal sovereign, and oil-rich Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi is far back at No. 2, Forbes magazine reported on Thursday.

King Bhumibol, 80 and...of 62 years on the throne, the world's longest-serving

THAI KING A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, August 23, 2008 ★ Vol. 23 / No. 259 www.inquirer.net

KNOW THY ENEMY Soldiers don't let their guard down as the fighting intensifies. With their weapons drawn, they surround and interrogate what looks like a harmless man who just happens to be passing through their command post in Rauwagan, Lanao del Norte. GINA ACOSTA

MILF: No renegotiation; ready for war

By Inquirer Mindanao and Nikko Dizon

THE SEPARATIST MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front will not agree to a renegotiation of the controversial memorandum of agreement (MOA) to create a Bangsamoro homeland whose aborted signing has stoked renewed violence in Mindanao.

If anything, the MILF is ready for war, its leaders said yesterday as fighting between government troops and MILF rebels entered its third week.

"We do not imagine war, but we are ready for it," said Mohagher Iqbal, the rebels' chief negotiator in the peace talks in a telephone interview late Thursday.

Asked what it would take for the stalled peace talks to resume, he said: "Sign the MOA."

Contacted for comment, Press Secretary Jesse Dureza said last night: "There should be no talk of war because war is not an option here. We're always for peace."

He explained that when the government said it was not signing the MOA, it was "not

MILF A15

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY? The boys are as clueless as to the disturbing interruption of their normal lives.

MILF camp falls; 30 killed

REACHING OUT A child is passed on to the waiting arms of his mother who's aboard a dump truck which is to transport evacuees from Rauwagan to Linamon Elementary School in Lanao del Norte. The rising number of evacuees stems from the MILF's tactic of setting up temporary and landlite camps close to communities. For the military to target the rebels, the civilians have to be evacuated. The Red Cross appeals for donations for more tents.

Questions still hound Chinese gymnasts over age SPORTS / A28

And then were none ... Last RP hope bows out

By Ted S. Molendres
Sports editor

BEIJING—MARY ANTOINETTE RIVERO bowed to a taller, more tactically polished Croatian fighter at the Beijing Olympics here Friday, blowing her country's last remaining hope for a medal and unwittingly prolonging by four more years the curse of its Olympic shutout.

No matter how she disguised it, the weight of a nation's expectations was just too much to bear for her.

Outmanned but not outfought, the 20-year-old Asenso freshman yielded to some

AND THEN A11

S. America + Africa = 9 golds; Jamaica, 5 golds

BEIJING—A QUICK glance at the Olympic medal charts shows winners from every corner of the world. A closer look reveals two entire continents, South America and Africa, lagging far behind the others, to the consternation of their

S. AMERICA A11

Biggest aerial attack launched

By Inquirer Mindanao and Terra Quimpando and Nikko Dizon in Manila

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao—Backed by the biggest aerial bombardment in nearly a decade, government forces yesterday drove out Moro rebels from one of their camps in Maguindanao, and fighting raged on elsewhere on rice fields and marshlands, officials said.

About 30 rebels and one soldier have been killed since Wednesday and more than 70,000 villagers have fled their homes, the officials said.

MILF A8

Palace stand: Resume talks, no terms

By Christine O. Avendaño

IS IT OR ISN'T IT?

It's been an embarrassing week of contradictory and confusing statements from President Macapagal-Arroyo and various Palace officials and functionaries on the memorandum of agreement (MOA). One day it's off, the next, it's on with conditions appended followed by a flurry of clarifications. There was another one yesterday.

Malacañang announced yesterday its official position on the situation with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the controversial memorandum agreement to create a "Bangsamoro" state.

PALACE A6

SC asked to rule on MOA once and for all

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

LAWYERS OF THE VARIOUS parties contesting the proposed memorandum on agreement to create an independent Bangsamoro state yesterday asked the Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the MOA once and for all, as a decision now would guide future negotiations or that

SC ASKED A9

The Pattugalan Memos on Project 'Four Flowers'

By Fe Zamora

(Third in a series)

(Editor's Note: This part of the series is based on intelligence reports archived at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) and an interview with Rodolfo Salas, former chief of the New People's Army (NPA); Sen. Benigno Aquino III; and a retired brigadier general who held a key position at ISAFP in the 1980s.)

WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. would be coming home, the military also started receiving reports revealing "strong indications of a possible plot" on the opposition leader's life.

Information about the alleged plots were "smothered" by military assets in an envoy to Turkey and in unspecified places in Batangas and Cabanatuan City. The plots supposedly involved communists, rightists and political operatives. The motives cited were vendetta and politics.

The reports were relayed to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos by Brig. Gen. Rolando Pattugalan, then Intelligence chief, in a series of memos dated July 6, July 13, July 31, Aug. 16 and Aug. 20, all in 1983.

The memos were Pattugalan's progress report on Project "Four Flowers," the Intelligence project launched to confirm the plot and determine the time, place, manner, weapons to be used and the persons

THE PATTUGALAN A4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Laoag	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Basco	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Cagayan	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Coron	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

EZ2 POUR DIGIT
8 8 — 1 6 0 0

SUERTRES
5 9 7 — 8 5 6 — 4 6 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 16 17 28 30 34
₱8,466,584.20

DOJ files fraud raps vs Meralco

Alleged misappropriation of P899M in meter, bill deposits at issue

By Jerome Aning and Abigail Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE YESTERDAY filed syndicated estafa (fraud) charges against top officials of Manila Electric Co. who allegedly misappropriated P899 million in meter and bill deposits collected from subscribers of the power distribution company.

Meralco called the charges "pure harassment."

A three-member DOJ panel headed by Regional State Prosecutor Aaron Panga filed the criminal case before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court after its conclusion, adding that the charging of the Meralco officials was approved by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

In its resolution, the panel said "the evidence on record are sufficient to support a finding of probable cause for the commission of (syndicated) estafa and thus herein respondents as responsible corporate officers had decided upon, carried out and implemented the illegalities and complained of, resulting in the misappropriation of funds which had been solicited/collected by Meralco from members of the general public desiring to engage its services as a client/bidder or offeror."

Accused of conspiring to commit syndicated estafa, a nonbailable offense, were Meralco board chair and chief executive officer Manuel "Manolo" Lopez, vice chair Felipe Alfonso, president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco, executive vice president and chief financial officer Daniel Tagnia, 1st VP and treasurer Isabel Andrada, VP and corporate auditor and compliance officer Helen de Guzman.

VP and assistant corporate secretary Ariosto Ibañez, senior assistant VP and assistant treasurer Mauricio Avinante, and other members of the 2008 board of directors, namely Jeremy Peirce Monroe Cross Weiss, former Commissioner on Elections Ozais Dumarpa, former Energy Secretary Francisco Tatad, Iloilo provincial board member Arthur Defensor Jr., Washington Sycip, Gregory Domingo, Orlando Victor Espiritu, Federico Puno and Estelito Vivero.

The National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) filed the complaint with the DOJ in May after learning that Meralco had converted to interest the interest earned by the meter and bill deposits of its subscribers.

Nasecore pointed out that the conversion was illegal because the money must be returned to the fund that should have been held in trust by Meralco for its consumers and, according to the guidelines issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission, must be returned to those who cease to terminate their electric service.

In branding the charges as harassment, Meralco vice president for corporate communications Elpi Cuasa said: "We've addressed and answered by this development. The DOJ decision was issued with undue haste and in violation of the law. Our reservations were denied due process, denied the right to file their comment/defenses."

He said the reasons contained/defenses were not filed was the issuance of a temporary restraining order barring the DOJ panel from conducting further investigations.

"The investigation was interrupted or suspended by the Makati Regional Trial Court TRO. The respondents were not informed that the case had been terminated for resolution, so they were not able to submit their counter-affidavits," Cuasa said.

"Our lawyers are studying all our options now."

A press conference would be called on Tuesday to discuss the company's impending refund of its customers' meter deposits, he said.

Instead of complying with the ERC's order to start refunding the deposits by January next year, he said, Meralco would be advancing its implementation to November.

Of the bill deposits also covered by Nasecore's complaint, he said, only the ERC could order Meralco to give them back.

VISIT

The Perfect Venue to Source all your Business Needs

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PHILIPPINES 2008

COMM i.t. and Telecoms

Corporate Gifts and Premium

PALMM Pro Audio, Video and Lighting

O.P.S. Office Products and Services

August 22 - 24, 2008 • SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia Complex

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Four (4) other related industries in one venue
- "Shopping Mall Atmosphere" showcasing new products & technology to the Philippine Market
- Special discounts on on-site purchases
- Free business matching sessions and presentations
- Live array speaker display and demonstration

SHOW HOURS:

Products on Display

Schedule of Seminars and Product Presentations

August 22, 2008 - Friday

August 23, 2008 - Saturday

August 24, 2008 - Sunday

For more information, please log on to: www.globalinfo.ph.com or e-mail SP@globalinfo.ph.com
You may also call (632) 750-8000 or fax (632) 750-8080

Canon Sanyo Epson Panasonic Sharp Toshiba Hitachi Mitsubishi Electric Samsung Acer Asus Benq Fujitsu Lenovo Nec Viewsonic Lg Sony Ericsson Nokia Motorola Blackberry Apple Ipod Iphone Htc Sony Vaio Dell Hp Compaq Intel Amd Microsoft Windows Vista Office 2007 Server 2008 Exchange Sharepoint Citrix Vmware Symantec Mcafee Trend Micro Kaspersky Oracle Sap Ibm Cisco Juniper Avaya Alcatel Lucent Huawei Zte Nec Ericsson Siemens Nortel Networks Motorola Tellabs Fortinet Sonicwall Checkpoint Barracuda Networks Riverbed Bluecoat Systems Aruba Networks Ruckus Wireless Extreme Networks Foundry Networks Brocade Communications Systems Force10 Networks Enterasys Networks Juniper Networks Cisco Systems

MOA or not, Cha-cha push still on, says solon

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) may be nil, but Charter change (Cha-cha) is still on.

The chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments yesterday made it clear he was pushing through with the deliberations on proposals to amend the Constitution, despite Malacañang's pronouncement that the government was not signing the MOA on ancestral domain with the MILF in its present form.

La Union Rep. Victor Ortega said his committee would proceed with its Aug. 26 hearing, which would resolve "the necessity of amending the Constitution" and "the mode to adopt should the body vote in the affirmative."

"Cha-cha has nothing to do with the MOA," Ortega told the Inquirer in a phone interview from Singapore. "I wasn't born because of the MOA. Whether there's a Mindanao conflict or not, we would still proceed with our work."

But for Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rafael Rodriguez, there is no more rationale for Cha-cha since the main reason for it, "the MOA with the MILF," has been abandoned, at least in its current form.

"Malacañang and Congress should now recall the principal for Cha-cha because there's no more reason for it," Rodriguez told the Inquirer. "The rationale for it is gone. We should now abandon Cha-cha as we can all achieve political stability."

Press Secretary Jesse Robredo on Thursday said the government would "not sign the MOA in its present form," citing the "corrective actions" by Moro rebels in parts of Mindanao.

He said the decision would stay even if the Supreme Court had yet to rule on petitions filed against the MOA.

Rodriguez noted that Malacañang began drumming up support for Cha-cha because it was necessary to legitimize the MOA, which was aimed at establishing a separate Bangsamoro state in Mindanao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the vote in favor of a shift to a federal system, which would need amendments to the Constitution, apparently to accommodate the MILF's demand for an independent homeland.

Earlier, Rodriguez withdrew his House Bill No. 3837, which called for a shift to a federal form of government, to keep Malacañang from riding on the measure to effect Charter change and possibly extend Ms. Arroyo's term.

At least seven measures have been referred to Ortega's committee, all of which seek Charter change either through a constitutional convention or a constituent assembly.

If the committee were pushed through on Tuesday, Rodriguez contended the administration congressmen could easily overwhelm the opposition to officially open the door to Cha-cha at the committee level.

He cited the results of a survey Pulse ga conducted that showed 119 House members favored revision of the Constitution with only 11 lawmakers against it.

At the Senate, meanwhile, Pangasinan Rep. Jose Miguel Arroyo drew flak for his statement that while he supported proposals to amend the Constitution, he would want it to happen after the 2010 elections, to kill speculations it will be used to extend the term of his mother, the president.

If that were so, the young Arroyo should file a resolution against Charter change, at least until after 2010, and ask the majority of the congressmen to sign it, said opposition Sen. Mar-Pete Cayetano yesterday.

Or he could propose the abolition of the House committee on constitutional amendments, Cayetano added.

"I would really like to believe it [but] we can no longer trust these statements," Cayetano said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also doubted the president's son.

"This young man is attacked by unbiblical cord to his mother's political survival, so it is difficult to give an assessment of that statement," Pimentel said.

Sen. Pramen Escudero said he regarded Arroyo issued the statement.

"But whether he really means it or not is another matter," he said. With Jobson G. Sanchez Jr.

Comelec: No anomaly in ballots

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) yesterday denied entering into an "anomalous transaction" with the National Printing Office (NPO) that would have outpriced the ballots used in the recently conducted Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections.

Press Secretary Jesse Robredo told reporters on Thursday that he foiled an attempt to overprice by P50 million the cost of printing the ballots for the automated ARMM elections.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo took umbrage when he read yesterday's news report, saying it appeared that Robredo had "discovered" the anomaly.

Melo said there was an attempt to charge the Comelec a steep price for the printing of 1,203,900 ballots but "from the very start, we barked off."

He said he found the NPO's initial quote of P52.47 per ballot too expensive because the ballots used in the 2007 elections only cost the Comelec around P2 each.

According to Comelec documents, the NPO initially gave a quote of P52.47 per ballot, for a total cost of P63.68 million.

In a letter to the Comelec on June 27, NPO officer in charge Marietta De Guzman said the P63 million included additional equipment and security markings.

Melo said the NPO lowered its price to P27.38, admits he still found that steep, so he sent private printing firms to submit quotations.

The submitted prices ranged from P3.89 to P4.56 per ballot or less than P6 million for the printing, he said.

When notified by the Comelec that it could not afford their price, the NPO reduced its price to P9.30 per ballot in a letter to the poll body on July 14.

"That's the most they lowered it," Melo said. The Comelec accepted the NPO's offer because it was close to the price quoted by private firms. Kristine L. Alave

DFA working to free seamen

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS is talking to people who might be able to win the release of 26 Filipino seamen seized by suspected pirates from two ships off Somalia in the week.

DFA officials have started working with the authorities in Nairobi, as well as the ships' owners, to secure the release of the Filipinos who were abducted along with seamen of other nationalities by suspected Somali pirates from the foreign-flagged tankers two days apart in the Gulf of Aden, Foreign Secretary Alberto G. undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said Thursday.

In all, the pirates seized 58 crewmen, the DFA said.

"The DFA has instructed the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo and Nairobi to coordinate with the ship owners, international maritime authorities and host governments to secure the safe and speedy release of all the crew members," the DFA said.

The foreign office said 14 Filipinos were seized with 20 other crewmen when pirates attacked the MT Bunga Melati 2, a Malaysian-operated tanker carrying palm oil, on Aug. 19 while it was sailing through the Gulf of Aden.

Two days later, pirates struck in the same waters between Yemen and Somalia and abducted 14 Filipinos and three other crewmen of the Panama-flagged chemical tanker MT Irene, a Japanese-operated ship.

Filipino seamen have many times fallen victim to sea and inland rebel attacks around Africa, with most of them being released safely under undisclosed terms.

Most recently, Filipino seamen were abducted by insurgents in Nigeria but were later released, but not after one of them died during the hijacking. Steve Quinsaat

Arming civilians not good idea, says rights group

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Gil Cabacungan

THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP accused international yesterday warned the Philippine government not against arming untrained civilian militias to repel Moro rebels, saying the move would only set off a "chain of reprisals" that would endanger more lives in Mindanao.

"Experience here around the world shows that the deployment of civilian militias to repel Moro rebels, saying the move would only set off a "chain of reprisals" that would endanger more lives in Mindanao.

"Experience here around the world shows that the deployment of civilian militias only increases the danger facing civilians," said Al Asia-Pacific Director Sam Zarifi.

"All sides in this conflict should step back from the brink and demonstrate their commitment to avoid harming civilians," he said.

The statement was echoed in the Senate, where even senators who used to be known playing gambling, vigilante heroes on screen opposed the plan to arm civilians, claiming it would only spark a civil war.

Amnesty issued its objection yesterday after the Philippine National Police announced that a shipment of 3,000 shotguns had been sent to Mindanao and that the guns were to be issued to "selected, screened and trained" police auxiliaries, deputized village watchmen and selected civilian volunteer organizations (CVOs).

The PNP said it would supply 12,000 more shotguns if the project proved to be successful.

Local leaders in Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato have pursued the formation of militia groups following the attacks by Moro Islamic Liberation Front in several municipalities.

The MILF rebels slipped into the towns of Kauswagan, Kolambugan, Maigo and Linamon in Lanao del Norte and Manaba in Aleosan in Monday, destroying houses and schools, "massively killing civilians and forcing thousands to flee their homes."

Amnesty said the existence of CVOs would only fuel more clashes in the region, pointing to claims by the MILF that it had targeted armed civilians during the recent attacks that left 43 people dead.

In an interview with reporters, former senator now Sen. Lito Lapid said he was against arming civilians because it would only worsen the situation in Mindanao. "The government does not know who is the rebel and the civilian, they are hard to identify. It would have been good if the government had an efficient intelligence system," he said.

Another senator, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, said also civilians should not take the law into their hands because the military and police could handle the situation if the government did not hold them back from going all-out against the rebels.

"If they (MILF) want war, the government must take it to them so that civilians would not think of defending themselves," said Estrada.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, was alarmed at reports that civilians had started to arm themselves because the government could not fully protect their families and communities from the rebels.

Citing the declaration of the rightists group Bago to engage the MILF rebels, Revilla warned that a civil war would erupt in Mindanao if the government did not step in soon to contain the conflict.

Monday another holiday

PEOPLE WORKERS and students will be treated to another long weekend with the celebration of National Heroes Day on Monday, Aug. 25.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1463 declared the day a regular holiday. Employees who work on that day would be entitled to double, or 200 percent of their basic pay.

'A simple man, a gallant officer, whose death would not be in vain'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE WAY HE lived is the way he will be remembered.

Veteran drama is unanimously in view the remains of the fallen officer in the white casket flanked by an honor guard.

The modest home is filled with flowers of various colors, flora and drapes strung with messages of sympathy from President Gloriaarroyo, government officials, military officers and friends.

Lt. Col. Angel Ibrahim's death and heroism have brought grief and pride to the simple home in Barangay Tabuc Suba, Jaro District, Iloilo City.

"We grieve for the loss of a very professional and competent officer," said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano at the wake on Thursday.

"His death is a great loss to the armed forces and the government has I know he did not die in vain. We are continuing what he fought for," Yano said.

Ibrahim, 48, commander officer of the Army's 101st Brigade, was killed along with two soldiers when they were ambushed by Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Lanao del Norte on Aug. 10.

He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Star on Wednesday for bravery and gallantry in action for holding his ground after he and his men shot it out with hundreds of MILF rebels while continuously trying their location to their superiors.

It was a simple but outstanding and for an officer who dedicated his life to the military.

Ibrahim's career took off after graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1980. He topped the Scout Ranger and military intelligence and psychological operations courses he took.

Recently, he graduated at the top of his class from the General Staff College (GSC) after taking a course required for promotion to full colonel and to command a battalion.

Ibrahim, who was commander of various military and intelligence units, had also seen several awards and medals including the Bronze Cross and Military Merit Medal.

Brig. Gerom Ibera, a classmate at the PMA, said officers and troops who were under Ibrahim were all praises for the officer.

"He got along well with his troops and led them to advancing their needs and mission," said Ibera, a member of the staff of the Army's 302nd Brigade based in Dingle, Iloilo.

"He was the perfect soldier," said his widow Maida Marie or "Cookie."

But despite his achievements and statute, Ibrahim remained unassuming and lived a simple life.

"He was so frugal and did not mind any extravagance," said Cookie.

She said she opted to hold her husband's wake at their home instead of a more spacious funeral parlor because that was what he would have wanted.

"He always encouraged us and trained the children to only spend for the essentials and not for what they want," said Cookie.

Brahim would only buy new school shoes for their children when the old ones could not be mended anymore.

The told one kids that shoes did not make students excel or do good in school but hard work and intelligence did," said Cookie.

He also stressed the importance of preparing for the future.

Their four children aged two to 15 have bank accounts into which they deposit savings from their allowance and birthday money.

The couple had also invested in a property from his savings after he was assigned to a peacekeeping force in Sudan in 2006.

Despite his frugality, Brahim made sure to fulfill promises he made to his children like a trip to a fast food restaurant or swimming in a resort.

"He did not want to break the trust of our children so he would make sure to fulfill whatever commitment he made," said Cookie.

"I am happy and proud that he has not been involved in any irregularities in his long years in the service," she added.

AFP CHIEF of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano salutes the late Lt. Col. Angel Ibrahim at the wake for the latter at his Iloilo City home on Thursday. At right is Ma. Elena Ibrahim, the slain officer's widow.

'Abadilla 5' take case to victim's family

By Julie M. Aurelio

THREE OF THE FIVE MEN CONvicted of the murder of Col. Rolando Abadilla have appealed to the victim's family to examine pieces of evidence which they said would prove their innocence.

In an open letter to the Abadilla family posted on the website of the Asian Human Rights Commission, the convicts reiterated their claim of innocence and asked the family to have pity on them.

Three of the convicts asked the family to examine two pieces of evidence which they said would prove they had nothing to do with Abadilla's murder on June 13, 1996.

"We take this opportunity to reach out to you, first of all in sympathy for your loss of a loved one, the late Col. Rolando B. Abadilla, whose gruesome untimely attitude-killing we did not commit," they said.

They were referring to two personal items of the slain former Davao State vice governor which were recovered from reported members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, a hit squad of the communist-led New People's Army which was sometimes called a "sparrow" unit.

The first item was Abadilla's Omega wristwatch, which was taken by his killers and later turned over by an ABB member to Fr. Robert Reyes on Jan. 3, 2008.

In an interview, Reyes recalled turning over the watch to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, which at the time had jurisdiction over the case.

The second item was Abadilla's .45-cal pistol which the gunmen had seized. The pistol was allegedly recovered from an ABB member killed in an armed encounter with the police on March 31, 1998, in Rodriguez, Rizal.

The letter was signed by three of the "Abadilla 5"—Leonilo Lumanog, Augusto Sumera and Hanssen de Jesus...on Thursday during a Mass at the New Bilibid Prison reservation in Muntinlupa.

The other convicts—Joel de Jesus and Cesar Fortuna—did not sign the letter.

Abadilla, who used to head the Metropolitan Command Intelligence and Security Group, was gunned down while aboard his Honda Civic on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

The ASG later claimed responsibility for the murder.

A Quezon City court later meted out the death penalty to Lumanog, Sumera, the two De Jesus and Fortuna.

The convicts maintained that they were wrongly arrested and detained since 1996, and have wrongly convicted and imprisoned since 1999.

It's DFA officials who should have heads examined, say OFWs

By Jaromia Aning

THE PROPOSAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Foreign Affairs to subject all departing overseas Filipino workers to a psychiatric exam is essentially ridiculous, OFWs in Singapore, a militant OFW group, has said.

Migrante International said it should be OFWs officials, not OFWs, "who should have their heads examined if they really believe mandatory psychiatric tests could help prevent OFWs from snapping to the straitjacket."

"For the leisure generational, those they have bailed or hoping buried [were heroes] are 'lunatics,'" said Connie Bragas-Regalado, migrante chair, in a statement.

Regalado said the DFA should realize that deplorable working conditions, verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuse, torture and the entrapment of their wages are what drive OFWs to the brink.

"By refusing to acknowledge these realities and by conveniently glossing over the fact that most of the time OFWs commit crimes as defense (hemselves while others are simply framed, the DFA is unwise in condemning our OFWs," Regalado said.

She warned Vice President Noli de Castro, presidential adviser on OFWs, and Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. for even considering such "symptomatic and unintelligent proposal."

"It's such a shame that those who are directly responsible for pushing migrants' rights are the ones who are blind and deaf to the realities OFWs face," Regalado said.

"If we're to follow the DFA's rationale, then UPWs like Sarah Balabagan, Mary Jane Fiesta and Joselito Zapanta were lunatics and not heroes, as they were hailed, when they arrived home after their overseas ordeal," Regalado said, referring to OFWs who were jailed but were subsequently acquitted or pardoned.

Forced confessions

In Davao City meanwhile, majority of the 27 OFWs recently repatriated from Jordan said they were forced to admit to crimes they did not commit when Philippine Embassy officials there supposedly told them it was the only way they could go home.

"Umuwi na lang daw kami, para makatawi na! (They told us to just confess so we could go home!)," said Shay Ann Abat, 22, of Davao del Norte.

Abat said that after smoking a few months as a domestic helper, her employer who ran a jewelry shop in Amman accused her of stealing a diamond.

She said she did not do it but was jailed nevertheless.

Gloria also said she and other OFWs in similar situations were told by a staffer at the Philippine Embassy in Amman to "admit to the trumped-up charges."

"The embassy would give us a ticket back home," Abat said. They were told by the staffer she did not identify.

Jocelyn Gato, 24, of North Cotabato, said she saw the same thing.Some gloss two thirties.

"Money or justice: We were told that if we chose to fight the cases in court and deny the charges, our abusive employers would file other false accusations," Gato said.

She said they were told that denying the charges would only prolong their stay in jail but continuing would result in some kind of pardon. With Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

FOUNTAIN Breeze
Condo Lifestyle. One address.

Whether it's garden views, open skylines & clubhouse views, choose from 30 & 40 sqm high-rise condo units that are expandable to 100 sqm.

Come view our model unit.
Open house on Sunday, August 24.
Trust Building as Phase 2 : target completion by December 2008
Enjoy the use of the pool & sports facilities by September

BOOMLAND
829-3810
825-5971
(0919) 230-2120

PHINMA Properties

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 23, 2008
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Rose of Lima

1st Reading: Ezek 43:1-7ab
Gospel: Mt 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses. So you should do and observe all they say but do not do as they do, for they do not what they say. They tie up heavy burdens and load them on the shoulders of the people, but they do not even raise a finger to move them. They do everything to order to be seen by people; as they wear very wide bands of the Law around their foreheads, and robes with large tassels. They enjoy the first place at feasts and reserved seats in the synagogues, and being greeted in the marketplaces and being called 'Master' by the people.

"But you, do not let yourselves be called Master, for you have one Master and all of you are brothers and sisters. Neither should you call anyone on earth Father, because you have only one Father, he who is in heaven. Nor should you be called leaders, because Christ is the only leader for you. Let the greatest among you be the servant of all. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

Commentary

Humility does not mean thinking low of ourselves. We are children of God, endowed with the precious gift of an immortal soul. We possess human dignity, and to belittle ourselves for its own sake falls short of true humility.

Humility does, however, mean thinking of ourselves less. When we are true servants of the Lord we look for opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of other people, just as our Lord did by humbling Himself even unto death, death on a cross. Our greatest example for following the Lord's example of humble service.

Celebrating his spirit,
Hans Menzi

Perhaps it is not so much that the world has a shortage of good people, it is just that we fail to remember them. One such Manilan is a very hospitable man especially of homeboys who not woman who ever stayed themselves to wait for the common good. Hans Menzi is one such person whose life and death we would like to celebrate today, his 80th birth anniversary.

Humble Beginnings

Hans Adolfus Uldrig Menzi was born here to Swiss parents, Johannes and Bertha, but he insisted himself "declared to be Filipino." He lost his natural born Filipino citizenship (as a technicality) when he acquired the Swiss Country Island, a foreign military service. But Menzi was determined to reacquire his Filipino citizenship upon his return.

He was a hard-working man who was to his day by his core heart. When there's an real discipline could have been learned an executive position in four family business, then he's had to prove his worth. So, he was an enduring fighter who loved sports for nearly 8 years.

Life's Achievements

Menzi was many things to many people, a philanthropist, industrialist, a pioneering businessman, sportsman, publisher, journalist, soldier, mentor, Filipino.

During season. While still a student after in the Philippine Air Force, Menzi flew back to the Philippines a thousand times all work to acquire at least five hours. He was one of the few Filipino pilots to make the Pacific in an executive aircraft. It was a milestone for the Philippine Air Force, the first of their pilots to traverse the Pacific on a light plane to record-breaking time.

For this, Menzi was posthumously cited by the Philippine Legion of Honor.

Soldier and patriot, Menzi was Filipino at heart. In the turbulent times leading to 1986, he enlisted in a cadre training army to organize security for patriotic anti-dictatorship. He joined the 600 Engineers reconnaissance battalion as a soldier to President Corazon Cory Aquino (PAO) and served as Honorary commander. For his help in the reconstruction in Tarlac (perhaps, for those years he stayed away from his family a great deal) and this is said to be the hardest period of his life.

As a General of the Philippine Air Force, he had a short time with the Philippine contingent to the Persian war. Upon his return, Menzi was appointed by then Vice General by the late President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Civic leader. He was an inspiring leader. He was many elected as president of the Rotary Club of Manila. During this time, he initiated a campaign for donor awareness, thus earning the name of what is now the Philippine Coma Society.

Menzi advocate many personal and succeeded in almost all of them. But it was in business that he got his start.

As a businessman he was keen and astute in his dealings. He further developed his well-respected line in banking, finance and company. But through the years efforts, Hans Menzi not only succeeded for business, he established a Trust, insurance and trading company of Swiss, General Foods and many products, especially one source and banking investments, distillers and chemicals, shipping, insurance, underwriting, engineering and even entrepreneurial endeavors. Today after many, is the business for the past 45 years, Manila Steel Enterprise continues to operate in leading position.

A true and open industrialist, he pushed for strong scientific approaches towards agricultural development. He believed that a strong national economy and a more manifold society could only be achieved by a robust agricultural sector.

Under Hans Agricultural Corporation, Menzi pioneered and introduced many agricultural crops in the country. Sunflower oil, coffee and fresh pepper were the main crops on the Mindoro Plantation. Under R.E.M. Construction, Inc., Menzi planted and nurtured 18 acres from Mariveles to Bataan Plantation. He also established a cotton plantation in Tuguegarao, a green chana plantation in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, a Mini Presidential channel in "Tandang" Palawan.

A staunch, proud, industrious, politician, journalist and soldier.

Newspaper publisher/journalist: in 1957, he bought the *Manila Bulletin* and transformed it into a mainstream paper that would be "more Filipino and more oriented." The *Bulletin* continues to thrive today.

Lasting Contributions

Bringing proper education to poor and deserving Filipino youth had been a dream of Menzi. This dream grew forth in Hans Trust Fund. As in 1976 – the endowing of Menzi's scholarship commitment to uplift the lives of Filipinos through education. Today, Hans Trust Fund has produced over 1000 graduates, as well business persons, civic and college throughout the country – a legacy of Menzi to his countrymen.

In addition, the Hans Trust Fund has setting scholarships, professional programs such as UP Medical Foundation and the Philippine General Hospital Medical Foundation, Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center, Philippine Science High School, Cardinal Sin Memorial Foundation, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women's College, Philippine Normal College, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women's College, Philippine Normal College, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women's College, Philippine Normal College

Thai king world's richest royal—Forbes magazine

From page A1

head of state, pushed to the top of the richest royals list by virtue of a greater transparency surrounding his fortune, Forbes said. (See list on this page.)

It said that the Crown Property Bureau, which manages most of the family's wealth, "granted unprecedented access this year, revealing vast landholdings, including 3,490 acres in Bangkok."

Petro-kingdoms

Forbes called it a good year for monarchies, investment-wise. "As a group, the world's 15 richest royals have increased their total wealth to $131 billion, up from $95 billion last year," Forbes said on its website.

With oil prices soaring, the economies of the petro-kingdoms of the Middle East and Asia dominate the list.

Sheik Khalifa, 68, the current president of the United Arab Emirates, was estimated to be worth $23 billion, on the back of Abu Dhabi's huge petroleum reserves.

In third was the sovereign of the world's biggest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, 84, who inherited the Al-Saud family throne in 2005, came in with a fortune of $21 billion.

Ex-king of kings

The previous king of kings, wealthwise, Al-amir-ool Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of tiny, oil-endowed Brunei on the Southeast Asia island of Borneo, fell to fourth place with $20 billion.

"The sultan, who inherited the riches of an unbroken 600-year-old Muslim dynasty, has had to eat back on his country's oil production because of depleting reserves," Forbes explained of his drastic fall to fame.

Fifth was Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, 58, of modern Emirate Dubai, with his own worth of $18 billion.

One of two Europeans on the list, Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, 63, ranked six on the list with $5 billion in wealth. However, the bank that is a key source of his family's wealth, LGT, is under investigation by the United States for helping evade people's trade taxes.

Qatar's Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, 56, came in at seventh, worth $2 billion; eighth was King Mohammed VI of Morocco, 46, his $1.5-billion fortune based on phosphate mining, agriculture and other investments.

Monaco prince

Number nine was Prince Albert II of Monaco, 58, his diverse fortune in the southern European principality put at $1.4-billion.

Tenth on the list was Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, 67, worth $1.1 billion.

Rounding out the top 15 were: The Aga Khan Prince Karim Al Hussein, 71, $1 billion; Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, 82, $650 million; Brunei's Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, 79, $500 million; Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Netherlands, 71, $300 million; and King Harald III of Swaziland, 48, with $200 million.

Art and science

Forbes noted that because many of the royals inherited their wealth, there is little watershed families, and often created it "via court fee their nation or territory," some of those on its list would qualify for the magazine's famous annual world billionaires ranking.

"Those of technical and idiosyncratic is odd but in the exact relationship between individual and state wealth, these eminences are perhaps a blend of art and science," it added. AFP

RICHEST ROYALS

1. **King Bhumibol Adulyadej**
Thailand
Age: 80
Net worth: $30 billion

2. **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
United Arab Emirates
Age: 62
Net worth: $23 billion

3. **King Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz**
Saudi Arabia
Age: 84
Net worth: $21 billion

4. **Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah**
Brunei
Age: 53
Net worth: $20 billion

5. **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid**
Al Maktoum Dubai
Age: 58
Net worth: $18 billion

6. **Prince Hans-Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein**
Liechtenstein
Age: 63
Net worth: $5 billion

7. **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani**
Qatar
Age: 66
Net worth: $2 billion

8. **King Mohammed VI**
Morocco
Age: 46
Net worth: $1.5 billion

9. **Prince Albert II**
Monaco
Age: 50
Net worth: $1.4 billion

10. **Sultan Qaboos bin Said**
Oman
Age: 67
Net worth: $1.1 billion

11. **Prince Karim Al Hussein**
Aga Khan
Age: 71
Net worth: $1 billion

12. **Queen Elizabeth II**
UK
Age: 82
Net worth: $650 million

13. **Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**
Kuwait
Age: 78
Net worth: $500 million

14. **Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard**
Netherlands
Age: 71
Net worth: $300 million

15. **King Mswati III**
Swaziland
Age: 40
Net worth: $200 million

In The Know

Where's the Japanese emperor?

IN 2003, THE BOOK, "THE IMPERIAL FAMILY Portal" gave a glimpse into the royal life of the Japanese emperor.

According to the book, Emperor Akihito would spend his $1.58 million of public money every year on the maintenance of his palaces and staff, which consist of more than 1,000 people, including a 24-piece orchestra, 30 gardeners, 25 cooks and 18 physicians, dentists and barbers.

However, author Yoko Wada, a former royal can respondent, explained that discussions about the imperial purse has been stifled by secrecy and a lack of scrutiny by Japanese politicians approving the budget.

The book also revealed the properties of the royal family, including a $222 acre farm which produces milk, meat and vegetables for the imperial family at an annual cost to the taxpayer of 2 million pounds ($3.6 million). The farm once ran at a profit because it used prize-winning racehorses but it reportedly slapped in 1969.

After World War II, much of the imperial family's wealth was confiscated by the American occupation authorities, who viewed it as a barrier to building a democracy.

By the time Emperor Hirohito died, he re portedly left behind a property worth 11 million pounds ($20.5 million in current exchange rate). The imperial palaces are owned and paid for by the state.

Source: Telegraph.co.uk

AFP/Antonello, Government site Guarantee

THE TRIAL Counsel Lorenzo Tañada looks over papers to defend his client Minoy who sweats deep in reflection during his trial before a military tribunal.

The Pattugalan Memos on Project 'Four Flowers'

From page A1

tasked to carry out the plot.

"Four Flowers" was presented in an executive session to the Agrava Board on March 3, 1984, by then Intelligence Chief Brig. Gen. Fidel Singson, with Col. Romeo Gerilla, executive officer of the Office of the Deputy chief of staff for intelligence; Col. Carlitos Romasan, chief of staff of Intelligence, also of Intelligence; and Col. Alejandro Tadeo, group commander for counter-intelligence, also of Intelligence.

The Agrava Board was a fact-finding commission set up by President Ferdinand Marcos to investigate the murder of Aquino and his presumed assassin, Rolando Galman.

Singson said during the board's session that he replaced Pattugalan as body chief on Aug. 27, 1983, as three days before Pattugalan's final memo is Ver).

The memos were among the hundreds of military records seized 23 years after the Aquino assassination—the "crime of the century" that sparked national outrage that led to the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship in February 1986.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the Pattugalan memos, a military dossier on Aquino and the criminal records of Galman from 1976 to 1983 from a source in Camp Aguinaldo.

The Inquirer showed copies of the memos to Pattugalan in an interview last December. Pattugalan said he had nothing to do with Project "Four Flowers" and that he had never seen the memos before.

The memos said the communist-tainted Aquino killed because he "collaborated" with the Marcos dictatorship. Another "collaborator" to be paid by liquidation was former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza.

Relatives of three NPA members also vowed to kill Aquino to avenge the death of their kin who were liquidated because they knew Aquino had allegedly surrendered the hardware of Plaza Miranda to regain 1971.

The bombing of the Liberal Party rally killed nine people and injured more than a hundred.

A follower of Salvador "Dey" Laurel, another opposition leader, also wanted Aquino dead because Aquino was "an opportunist who is exploiting the opposition."

The relatives of Benjamin Sangco, alias Commander Dean of the NPA, also wanted to avenge his death allegedly in the hands of Aquino's bodyguards.

Sangco was killed soon after he told a military tribunal that Aquino had funded the darling and its then to Visayas Congress of the Philippine Military Academy armory in December 1979. Cayetano was an instructor at the PMA liaison defecting to the NPA.

Sangco had also testified that Aquino allowed wounded NPAs to stay in his house in Quezon City for medical treatment.

The designated assassin was supposed to join a delegation from Central Luzon who would go to the Manila International Airport to welcome Aquino on his return from US exile. A group of 20 supporters would create a commotion that would allow the assassin to escape after he had done his job.

The body did not discount the possibility of other groups plotting against Aquino "for entirely different motives, which include vendetta or even for pure political reasons."

The Pattugalan memos were "somber about the means and methods [the plotters] intend to resort to in order to carry out the plot or plots."

In the last memorandum on the eve of Aquino's arrival, Pattugalan informed Ver that the senator was "definitely arriving on Sunday Aug. 21 at about 1:00 PM." The airline and flight number, however, were not yet known.

That information was not shared with the Aviation Security Command (Avsecom), a unit which was tasked to secure Aquino's arrival. The body was also excluded from Ephlin Ralik-bayan, the much-vaunted comprehensive military security plan for Aquino's arrival.

The body was to have a cover role—by providing a cover story that would link Galman, a go-for-hire, to the communists.

Aquino was shot dead on Aug. 21, 1983, as he was being escorted by soldiers in a vehicle waiting at the tarmac that would have taken him from the airport to a military camp. The military pointed to Galman—"a communist hitman," according to President Marcos—as the assailant.

The Aquino family saw the "communist plot" as part of Marcos' propaganda against the senator. It became more evident as there since the plot was played up in the Marcos media to the smoke leading to Aquino's homecoming.

The presidential memo, dated Aug. 16, reported about a meeting held by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leadership to discuss Aquino's arrival.

Aquino had made known his plans to some hosts in connection leader Rodolfo Salas through an intermediary. Salas had replied by advising Aquino to stay abroad where he would be safer.

Since he did not want Aquino to come home yet, Salas did not order a "neutralization" (of supporters) to welcome the senator. He did not send a hitman, either, to kill the senator.

In fact, Salas was at times preparing to crash the Kapunpunan declared "stay" when he heard on radio that Aquino had been shot.

In his confusion, Salas opened the presence cooker without waiting for the pressure to ease. The pig's ears he was cooking shot up to the ceiling, while the boiling broth exploded on his chest and face.

The military dossier on Galman profiled a hardened criminal who had served terms at the Nueva Bilibid provincial jail and the Camp Olivas stockade for homicide, robbery and illegal possession of firearms.

He was released on bail from Camp Olivas in December 1981, in February 1983, Galman and suspect Edmundo Starza, wanted a Fortune Tobacco panel along the Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija, highway, thwarting the sales agent of some P83,000 cash, several boxes of cigarettes and a swimsuit.

For the crime, another warrant was issued on Galman and Mateo in April 1983.

Galman was not a member of the communist "Huklalahung Sa mga Progresibo" supposedly sent out by Alejandro Ilding to kill Aquino.

Galman was a gun for hire and a military asset who was primed for one big project. He was "possessed" by a civilian military group to pull the trigger on a target not of his own choosing.

He was the last man at the end of a civilian-military conspiracy.

VER

PATTUGALAN

KISSING SCENE A file photo shows Minoy about d China Airlines.

KUMON

50TH ANNIVERSARY

2-week FREE TRIAL

For half a century now, Kumon has been nurturing millions of children worldwide. We at Kumon are your partners in raising children to be the leaders of tomorrow. Through our *math* and *reading* programs, children develop strong academic skills and build solid character to empower them for life.

We invite you to take the key and open the door to boundless opportunities for your child. Avail of our two-week free trial from **September 17 to 28**. In these two weeks, your child will experience all of the following for free:

- Attend classes.
- Get Kumon worksheets daily.
- Receive study assessment from a Kumon instructor.
- Have a study plan for the next three years.

The key to your child's future is here.

INQUIRE NOW!!!

KUMON CENTERS NATIONWIDE

Caloocan (02) Fairmall 332-0021 / A. Bonifacio 361-0063 / Camarin 287-6491 / Grace Park 287-8315 **Las Piñas** (02) Manuela Village 874-0081 / A. Aguinaldo Urban Village 800-8955 / Bahay Kubo Subdivision 872-8018 / Manuela Alabang 842-1818 / Talon 800-8955 **Makati** (02) Bangkal 519-0000 & 716-8000 / Dela Rosa 810-0007 & 810-0990 / JP Rizal 519-7000 / Kamagong St. (San Antonio Village) 890-7838 & 890-8181 / Pasong Tamo 807-4991 / Salcedo Village 893-0787 / San Lorenzo Village 811-4518 **Malabon** (Tonsuya) 445-2009 & 361-0417 / Bel-Air Subdivision, Dos Castillas **Mandaluyong** (02) Addition Hills 535-4181 / New Zaniga 535-8035 / Shaw Blvd. Area 725-0000 **Manila** (02) Balsahan 407-7000 / Binondo 243-1160 / 311-4210 & 241-0042 / Dagonoy 241-0070 / Malvar 242-0172 / Pandacan 563-0272 / Paco 561-4841 & 562-6841 / Rizal Avenue Extension 252-1401 / Sampaloc 741-4455 / San Miguel 736-1101 / Sta. Mesa 716-2798 / Wild Orchid Subdivision 743-0008 **Marikina** (02) Concepcion Uno 941-1907 / Industrial Valley 942-2481 / Malanday 942-2481 / Marikina Heights 942-2481 / Nangka 941-1900 **Muntinlupa** (02) Alabang 850-1890 / Ayala Town Center 809-8790 / Cupang Proper 809-0008 **Navotas** (02) Bagumbayan 284-2744 / Bonifacio 767-2772 / Bignay 809-8727 & 810-6833 / South Road 809-8231 / Tangos North 809-7202 **Pasay** (02) Cuneta 831-0241 / Libertad 833-2941 **Pasig** (02) Caruncho Avenue 643-1746 / Kapitolyo 641-0000 / Rotonda 641-0000 / San Antonio 643-0753 / Tiendesitas 643-0753 / Ortigas 240-2282 / Pinagbuhatan 643-1172 / Santolan 642-1648 / Valle Verde 6 643-2528 **Pateros** (02) Aguho 687-4000 **Quezon City** (02) Bagong Silang 930-0836 & 930-8781 / Commonwealth 455-0000 / Congressional 455-0000 / Diliman 924-2000 / Fairview 930-0836 / Kaligayahan 930-0836 / Kamuning 924-2744 / Malaya 767-2772 / Maligaya Park 930-0836 / Novaliches 934-4107 & 931-6833 / South Road 809-8231 / United Hills 420-7202 **Pilar** (02) Bacoor 434-2744 / Bacoor Boulevard 433-0000 / Bacoor Poblacion 433-0000 / Daang Hari 434-2744 / Molino 434-2744 / Talaba 434-2744 **Pilipinas** (02) Alabang 842-1818 / Bacoor 434-2744 / Bel-Air Subdivision, Dos Castillas / Binondo 241-0042 / Caruncho Avenue 643-1746 / Commonwealth 455-0000 / Congressional 455-0000 / Cupang Proper 809-0008 / Diliman 924-2000 / Dos Castillas 845-1000 / Fairview 930-0836 / Kaligayahan 930-0836 / Kamagong St. (San Antonio Village) 890-7838 & 890-8181 / Kamuning 924-2744 / Libertad 833-2941 / Malaya 767-2772 / Maligaya Park 930-0836 / Molino 434-2744 / Nova Proper 809-8727 / Novaliches 934-4107 & 931-6833 / Pinagbuhatan 643-1172 / Rotonda 641-0000 / Santolan 642-1648 / Talaba 434-2744 / Tiendesitas 643-1172 / Valle Verde 6 643-2528 / Wild Orchid Subdivision 743-0008 **Pinagbuhatan** (02) Pinagbuhatan 643-1172 **Pio del Pilar** (02) Bel-Air Subdivision, Dos Castillas 845-1000 / Kamagong St. (San Antonio Village) 890-7838 & 890-8181 / Makati Avenue 890-8181 / Pio del Pilar 890-8181 / Rizal Avenue 890-8181 / San Lorenzo Village 811-4518 **Rizal** (02) Angono 697-0000 / Binangonan 656-0000 / Cainta 656-0000 / Cogeo 656-0000 / Taytay 656-0000 **San Juan** (02) Addition Hills 535-4181 / Greenhills 725-0000 / Little Baguio 727-0000 / Maytunas 727-0000 / Pinaglabanan 727-0000 / Salapan 727-0000 / Tibagan 727-0000 **Taguig** (02) Bonifacio High Street 856-0001 & 856-0383 / Lakeside (Uptown) 844-0110 / Uptown Bonifacio 844-0001 & 844-0011 **Valenzuela** (02) Arkong Bato 291-0000 / Gen. T. de Leon 291-0000 / Malinta 291-0000 / Tres Marias 291-0000

Batangas (043) Balagtas 311-0000 / Batangas City 980-0000 / Lipa City 757-0000 / Rosario 311-0000 / Sampaga City (Diversion) 723-0000 ext. 100 / Tanauan 723-0000 / San Juan 415-0000 **Bulacan** (044) Baliwag 815-0000 / Bocaue 361-0000 / Bulacan 760-0000 / Malolos 760-0000 / Meycauayan 840-0000 / Obando 361-0000 / Plaridel 931-0000 / Pulilan 931-0000 **Cavite** (046) Bacoor 417-0000 / Dasmariñas 0920-5007589 / Gen. Trias 463-8453 / Silang 481-0000 / Tagaytay 860-0000 / Trece Martires 868-0000 **Laguna** (049) Bay 502-0000 / Los Baños 536-7000 & 536-0000 / Pacita Complex (San Pedro) 402-3647 & 402-1773 / San Pedro City 892-1000 / Taguig 839-7000 & 837-0000 **Nueva Ecija** (044) Cabanatuan 463-0000 / Gapan 463-0000 / Science City of Muñoz 463-0000 / Talavera 463-0000 **Pampanga** (045) Angeles 888-1977 / Mabalacat 888-1977 / San Fernando 888-1977 **Zambales** (047) Olongapo 224-0000

Aklan (036) Kalibo 268-2219 **Cebu** (032) Alang-Alang 520-0000 / Banilad 231-1777 & 416-2000 / Consolacion 0906-4783 / Cordova 0906-4783 / Lapu-Lapu 340-8100 / Mandaue 345-8100 / Talisay 272-8100 **Iloilo** (033) Jaro 507-0001 **Leyte** (053) Palo 320-8388 & 0917-6815 / Tacloban City 888-8888 **Negros Occidental** (034) Bacolod 707-0000 **Negros Oriental** (035) Dumaguete 422-3313

Agusan del Norte (085) Butuan City 341-8171 **Bukidnon** (088) Valencia 225-2172 **Davao** (082) Bajada 300-8878 & 221-2000 / J.P. Laurel Avenue 221-2000 / Matina 300-8878 & 298-2911 / Mintal 300-8878 & 298-2911 / Quezan del Norte (082) Ligaan 221-2140 **Misamis Oriental** (088) Cagayan de Oro 726-4010 / Mindanao Avenue 726-4010 / Nazareth 726-4010 **South Cotabato** (083) General Santos 552-0070 / Koronadal 228-8305 **Surigao** (086) Surigao City 826-0000 **Zamboanga del Sur** (062) Zamboanga City 991-0991

www.kumon.com.ph

MILF camp falls; 30 killed

From page A1

And MILF Commander Datoa Kato is on the run.

Some 30 aircraft, including OV Bronco bomber planes, MG-520 working-attack helicopters, a pair of Italian-made S-211 jets from Basa Air Base in Pampanga and many choppers, have been thrown into the battle, Philippine Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Pedrito Cadungog told the Inquirer.

"We have bigger operations now in terms of assets and area covered than in Abubakar in 2000," Cadungog said, referring to the all-out military offensive eight years ago that led to the capture of Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao, the biggest base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

No space to breathe

"We deemed it necessary this time not to give them space to breath," the PAF chief said. "We gave a bit soft at first assuming that it will not escalate. We are ready for any escalation of action."

An air force source said yesterday's air strikes delivered a total of 23 bombs and 11 rockets on six targets around Sharif Aguak. They included a dozen 500-lb bombs, nine 250-pounders and four 110-pounders.

"The results are good based on reports of our ground troops," Cadungog said. "They are happy that we've had direct hits."

Kato on the run

In yesterday's clashes, soldiers captured a satellite camp of Kato in Datu Piang town.

Kato is one of two most wanted MILF commanders whose surrender has been demanded by the government, blaming them for the killing of dozens of civilians in attacks in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte and Sarangani.

The MILF has ordered Kato and Kumander Bravo—each wanted for 10 million pesos—and clashes have resulted in dozens of deaths, mostly soldiers and Christian, Muslim and civil society groups for an end to the fighting.

Col. Medel Aguilar, commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, said air strikes had resumed against Kato's forces and ground troops pressed their advance.

Journalists rescued

Two broadcast journalists and three civilians, including a pregnant woman, who had been trapped since Thursday evening, have been rescued and brought to Cotabato City, the military said.

Studio 23 broadcaster Jun Alcomendas, station manager Bong Talandron and GMA 7 stringer Archimedel Cabrera were covering a firefight in Datu Piang but MILF snipers fired on them as they were about to leave the area, according to Lt. Col. Julieto Anido, spokesperson of the military's 6th Infantry Division.

Anido confirmed the situation had worsened and that MILF rebels had been conducting ambuscades.

"They were trying to take control of the highway. The highway was closed to motorists Friday morning but was reopened after having been cleared of rebels," Anido said.

MORE soldiers pour into Lanao del Norte to pursue Moro rebels and secure residents in rebel-infested areas. (JOAN BONDOC)

Dozens wounded

Salazar said the rebel casualties came from 46 rallies and clashes on the ground. Reports of other rebels have been wounded since the hostilities broke out on Wednesday in the towns of Guindulungan, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Piang, Mamasapano, Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao and Columbio in nearby Sharif Kabunsuan province.

Yesterday alone, 18 rebels were killed, he said.

Salazar said the number of rebel casualties was based on intercepted radio conversations among the guerrillas.

"The group of Commander Kato has abandoned their satellite camps in Datu Piang and our soldiers have taken over," he said.

More fighting feared

Eleven soldiers were injured when rebels mauled a military convoy in Gatuchalungan town on Thursday morning, said Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, deputy spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command.

Cabangbang said the military had met strong resistance and "expected more clashes."

"Our ground troops are penetrating their main objectives and we will be deploying additional soldiers from Davao City," he said.

He identified the wounded soldiers as Sgt. Renato Jaime Cacoso, Corporals Alfredo Indin and Edgar Galorao, Privates First Class Elbi Guaro, Jojo Sicoran, Rolando Sinan, Sinan Dumagding, Albert Sibaco, Arlan Montoya, Mark Anthony Calunday, and Pvt. Reuel John Tilad.

Salazar said it appeared that Kato's group was being reinforced by other MILF units.

"We have clarified the rebels' position since Thursday night until Friday morning. The enemies are getting stronger," Salazar said.

Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, acting chief of the AFP command center, said the 601st Brigade under Salazar "has been engaging the main bandit" in the swamp of Sharif Aguak, Mamasapano, Datu Piang, and Gramag Salic in Maguindanao.

Rice fields and marshlands

Segovia described the battlefield as rice fields and marshlands.

He said artillery and planes had been hitting the MILF's temporary shelters or satellite camps, which were fortified with bunkers and trenches, and sending the guerrillas "running around in chaos right now."

"Some are not so sure where they are going," Segovia said.

Segovia said that in North Cotabato, the 602nd Brigade under Army Col. Alex Rosario were engaged in "sporadic firefights" with other guerrillas under Abdullah Macapaar, also Commander Bravo.

Military targets

Segovia warned other MILF commanders not to provide sanctuary to Bravo, Kato and their men.

"Their positions will be military targets," he said, adding: "Our orders are only against the main groups. This is what the AFP will continue

to do. We don't allow ourselves to be hostaged by their actions."

Segovia said that since most of the MILF's satellite camps were near populated communities, thousands of residents had evacuated.

Elsewhere, four civilians were reported to the Cotabato Regional Hospital after they were reportedly hit during the military bombardment.

It was not clear why the civilians were still in their villages when most of the people had already evacuated.

Food aid

Based on figures released by the health department of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Armm), more than 70,000 people had fled the besieged areas.

Segovia gave reporters in Manila seemingly different figures. He said that according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council

(NDCC), there were a total of 46,869 evacuees from Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao staying in 92 different evacuation centers.

Another report from the NDCC, however, placed the affected/displaced people at nearly 200,000.

The NDCC said that the evacuees in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte

had resulted in 40,138 families or 199,692 people affected.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said it had agreed with the government to provide an additional 250 metric tons of rice to help feed the thousands of evacuees.

Fireworks banned

In Kidapawan City in South Cotabato, Mayor Bernardo Miguel has banned fireworks and public gatherings as the Maguindanao situation appeared to be worsening.

"We want to ensure the safety and security of our constituents amid MILF unrest of more rebel attacks and counterinsurgency activities in Mindanao," Miguel said.

In Surigao province, Gov. Miguel Dominguez ordered the evacuation of the civilian defense force in the villages as a precautionary against further MILF attacks.

Dominguez said he would rather that the situation be resolved peacefully.

"I'm just hoping that the government and MILF could find a way to stop the armed fighting and resume the peace process," Dominguez said.

3rd party needed

Ahmad Syed Limpas, executive director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies based in Cotabato City said the participation of the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) was badly needed.

"Recent events showed once again the urgency of third party monitors to maintain the ceasefire in order to keep the peace process on track," Limpas said.

In North Cotabato, education officials said they would be be untethered to evacuation centers, especially in the town of Pikit, as their children would not attend their lessons.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said he had asked Speaker Prospero Nograles to order lawmakers to donate at least P500,000 for the needs of displaced residents of Maguindanao. With reports from Jeffrey Mobios, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Ardina, Ilisch Macabena, Agaba Emda and Grace Alhassin, inquirer Mindanao, and AFP

Gordon urges transfer of hospital due to fighting

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao will have to be evacuated to Cotabato City as violence has intensified in the area, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

He said the Philippine National Red Cross would help the provincial government transfer equipment and patients to a temporary location to be set up in Cotabato City.

The PNRC yesterday evacuated more 700 civilians from Datu Piang, Gonlon said, quoting reports from PNRC volunteers.

"The violence is still raging there. People are really scared," Gordon, also the PNRC chairman said in a phone interview. "We are looking for a safe place for them."

Gordon also appealed for cash donations to the PNRC, forecasting a need to sustain evacuation efforts in the affected areas.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson criticized the government against sending civilians, saying "it would not look good in the international community." He also said that sending civilians without proper housing was illegal.

The P1.9 trillion national budget is designating a thousand shotguns to civilians in Mindanao to arm qualified residents as police auxiliaries. But Lacson said shotguns would be no match to the rebels' high-powered guns.

Palace stand: Resume talks, no terms

From page A1

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government wants to resume peace negotiations, without conditions, with the MILF and will not let the rebel group that they review the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain.

Ermita clarified that the government has not canceled the MOA, whose provisions on the creation of an independent Bangsamoro state in Mindanao has sparked angry protests, the toughest the country and bloody attacks from MILF fighters in years.

Ermita said the government was not setting any conditions for the MILF in returning to the negotiating table, explaining that President Macapagal-Arroyo's statements about disarmament and demobilization the other day referred to what the government hopes to achieve after a final peace agreement is signed and not a precondition for peace talks to resume.

Ermita also made it clear the government will continue to negotiate with the MILF, not with the various commanders in Mindanao, although the latter will be consulted on the peace process. He was clarifying a statement from the President the other day that "the focus of our talks shall shift from the armed groups to communities."

Contrary to Davao

Ermita made these clarifications after confusing statements over the past few days from Press Secretary Jesus Dureza, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Deputy Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo and the President herself gave the impression of an incoherent government policy on the MILF and the MOA.

In a radio interview, Dureza said the government would no longer sign the MOA in its present form, however the Supreme Court, which turned the signing of the MOA on Aug. 5, rules on the various petitions seeking to cancel the agreement.

But others talked about it, Esperon said, "there is no such thing as a unilateralism." He said canceling the MOA would be "disrespectful to the talks with all others of the panel since 2001."

After sending out a text message earlier Thursday that used the word "unconditional," Fajardo later amended her message, explaining that she did not intend to make it appear that the Palace was open for a "renegotiation" of the agreement.

Ermita said the government hopes to ask the MILF to review the MOA which he said "is not cancelled" but only to be "[subjected] to a thorough review."

Told that the MILF was not open to reviewing the MOA, he said the government was hopeful it would reconsider the group to agree to the review.

He also said there will be no signing of the MOA "because we know there's too much outcry about some provisions."

Major factor

Asked whether the final ruling on the MOA is to be made by the Supreme Court would make or break the peace process, Ermita said the high court decision will be a "major factor" in the peace process.

"The government is not insensitive to the observations of some members of the Supreme Court [which] raised issues in the first oral arguments. We know that the sentiments are like that on the provisions that they do not approve of, that's why the manifestation of the solicitor general says that we will subject the MOA to a thorough review."

The Supreme Court is now studying what is important is we are one government. The Supreme Court is sensitive of the separation of powers. It knows what it has to look into and it knows what the Executive is not to look into, and it knows what is due to the Executive to act on. Active to the proper conduct of negotiations," he added.

Not asking for surrender

Ermita said the government was not asking for the MILF to order MILF commanders Ameril Umbra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, to surrender "because otherwise, the peace negotiations will not continue."

"We just have to live up to that realization that they admit that they have elements that do not follow orders. That's why it happened that the attack against also for the government to run after them as common criminals," he said.

The arrest of Kato and Bravo, who have been tagged as being responsible for the attacks in Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato, was not a condition for the peace negotiations to resume, Ermita said.

"We're not arming down any constituent. We're just appealing to the [MILF] leadership that hopefully there will be an environment that is conducive for the peace talks to resume," Ermita said.

Fate awaits Kato, Bravo leads

Contrary to Ermita's remarks that the Palace is not asking for the surrender of Kato and Bravo, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno challenged the MILF leadership to turn over Bravo and Kato as a show of their sincerity to the peace talks.

Puno yesterday announced the filing of charges of arson, murder, illegal detention, and robbery against 90 MILF members, including Bravo.

Police charged Bravo and his men for the bomb attacks in Kabacan, Midsayap and Kauswagan last Monday, which 26 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

Earlier, the government filed arson and 46 murder charges against Kato, head of the MILF 105th Base Command, and some of his men for striking and pillaging 20 barangays in North Cotabato and murdering seven residents.

Puno said that a deadline for the surrender of Kato and Bravo had lapsed last Thursday.

"If the MILF Central Committee cannot, will not or refuses to cooperate with the system of justice which is also intended to protect also the Muslims that were massacred in these places ... then we would see to it that those in the peace process regain citizenship," Puno said.

Ermita said the government wants the peace process to continue and the MILF leadership itself "agrees with ... the resumption of negotiations and the peace process."

Asked when the talks would resume, Ermita said: We still have to find out. That is something that will have to be negotiated by the negotiators."

Silencing the guns

"Silencing the guns is something that we hope after the final peace agreement, just like what happened with the Moro National Liberation Front," he said.

The purpose of negotiations is to "attain peace" and to do that, "we have to silence the guns."

He explained that when the President said there would be a shift from the communities to armed groups, the intent "the communities—local government executives, business and religious sectors, including Catholic dioceses all over Mindanao —will have a big role in the consolidation."

The negotiations will continue to be between the government and the MILF because "the communities by themselves will not have the personality to enter into an agreement with the involvement of third party," meaning Malaysia, which is brokering the talks with the rebels.

Bungling negotiators

Opposition senator yesterday blamed the unsuccessful advances in Mindanao on the way the government's mishandling of the negotiations with the MILF.

"We have to emphasize that the fault lies in the hands of Malacañang for bungling the negotiations and the government panel is composed of opportunists," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"We are now reaping the efforts of that bungled talks," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the scrapping of the MOA remains "nebulous." He said there was "no point in going back to the MOA as it is not acceptable to many communities."

Sen. Manuel Roxas said the Malacañang statement on the scrapping of the MOA would not suffice. He said the Supreme Court should still nullify it and declare it unconstitutional.

He said that unless the high court declares the MOA unconstitutional, the MILF can begin renegotiations with its rancorous anti-Imbo opening position.

Partly blamed

Administration Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri said that the government was "partly to be blamed" for the fighting in Mindanao "because of the secrecy and the lack of transparency" in the MOA.

But he welcomed the scrapping of the MOA as a recognition of the stand of affected leaders in Mindanao who opposed the government for listening to the plans of Mindanao leaders. With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Alexis Orgas

SC asked to rule on MOA once and for all

From page A1

"Mandated in Mindanao will not be repeated."

They also argued that a high court ruling was imperative as the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front considered the agreement already "a done deal."

The arguments were made even as several magistrates asked whether there was still a point to ruling on the validity of the MOA, wondering then the government has announced that it would not sign the MOA in its present form.

Questioning one of the petitioning lawyers, Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura said the questions about the constitutionality of the MOA provisions would have been resolved more with the scrapping of the agreement.

Nachura cited a Supreme Court ruling in a case against the Presidential Proclamation 1017 declaring a state of national emergency (*David vs Arroyo*), that the court and academic principle is not a "magical formula that can automatically dismantle the courts in resolving a case."

He said the court could still decide on moot and academic cases if there is a grave violation of the Constitution, if the paramount public interest is involved, the issue raised requires the formulation of controlling principles to guide the bench and if the case is capable of repetition yet evading review. He said all of these conditions were met in the MOA case.

Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. also asked why there was a need to nullify provisions when the MOA has not been signed in the first place. When Taruc replied that the agreement had been initialed, the magistrate then asked if initialing was the equivalent of signing it.

The lawyer then replied that the MILF considered the MOA "a done deal," and added that under international law, initialing a document constitutes authentication of the text, and is also one of the latter stages in finalizing an agreement effort.

He also said that some of the provisions in the agreement were self-executory "to the MOA, as a framework agreement, is effective upon signing."

But Nachura said that there was no valid, existing contract without the signing taking place.

COURT ON LAST RESORT The face of the MOA and the bloodshed in Mindanao now rests uneasy with the Supreme Court. As press time, the court has yet to rule on the case filed by petitioners that the MOA between the government and the MILF is unconstitutional. Another hearing is scheduled on Friday. GMA-IE

The justices quoted Deputies Agabin, lawyer of petitioner Sen. Manuel Roxas, as whether the initialed draft of a treaty would mean that the treaty was as good as signed and would be binding on the government. Agabin said yes.

Agabin said the initialing was being used by the MILF in support of its argument that the MOA was a "done deal." He agreed that while the initialing would have been made for authentication purposes, it actually committed the parties to the provisions of the MOA even prior to the signing.

Justice Dante Tinga asked what the value of the agreement was. "It's not a perfected document, it's still unsigned. Because of the announcement of the President, the government is not going to sign the document, therefore there's nothing anymore," he said.

Saguisag said if the provisions are not struck down, there would be nothing to prevent the government from signing a similar agreement. He also noted violence might escalate in the south.

"If the Supreme Court will not say this is null and void, people will keep on saying it's a done deal. They're already saying we were remiss if it wasn't signed," he said.

Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro also said that even if the provisions are unconstitutional, these are not binding on the government panel because the MOA has not been signed.

But Taruc said the issue was not that the MOA should be canceled because there was no MOA to speak of, but what should be canceled was the authority to sign.

When Israelito Torreon, counsel for the South Cotabato officials, argued that the lack of consultation with the province's residents rendered the MOA moot and academic, Chief Justice Reynato Puno reminded the lawyer that the court has constitutional provisions, several magistrates asked whether the high court should continue to rule on the petitions' merits.

Torreon contended that the court should still decide the case as the government peace panel would be guided in future negotiations and to prevent it from signing another unconstitutional MOA.

Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura said the questions about the constitutionality of the MOA provisions would have been resolved more with the scrapping of the agreement.

Torreon cited a Supreme Court ruling in a case against the Presidential Proclamation 1017 declaring a state of national emergency (*David vs Arroyo*), that the court and academic principle is not a "magical formula that can automatically dismantle the courts in resolving a case."

He said the court could still decide on moot and academic cases if there is a grave violation of the Constitution, if the paramount public interest is involved, the issue raised requires the formulation of controlling principles to guide the bench and if the case is capable of repetition yet evading review. He said all of these conditions were met in the MOA case.

Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. also asked why there was a need to nullify provisions when the MOA has not been signed in the first place. When Torreon replied that the agreement had been initialed, the magistrate then asked if initialing was the equivalent of signing it.

The lawyer then replied that the MILF considered the MOA "a done deal," and added that under international law, initialing a document constitutes authentication of the text, and is also one of the latter stages in finalizing an agreement effort.

He also said that some of the provisions in the agreement were self-executory "to the MOA, as a framework agreement, is effective upon signing."

But Nachura said that there was no valid, existing contract without the signing taking place.

Tinga said the initialing was not binding on the government.

But Saguisag said there was no cancellation of MOA, and it had been initialed and was a done deal in the mind of the MILF.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat said that if the MOA is signed, the MILF might go to international courts and say it had been recognized by the Philippine government.

Sarmiento asked Lobregat if he would withdraw the cases once the government categorically states it would cancel the MOA and would not enter into agreements that violate the Charter and would get the people's views first.

"If the government will come in to pleading that they're going to withdraw the MOA, cancel it and future negotiations will be within the realm of the Constitution... and also with true consultations... then I don't think we'll have a problem," he said.

Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera earlier said the MOA would not be signed in its present form, and that the government would be making concessions with the affected communities.

Devanadera also explained that the government was not using the term "initialed" to refer to the MOA because it would imply that it had entered into an agreement and then withdrew.

In this case, she added, the signing was just stopped.

In the latter part of the hearing, the justices focused on the international implications of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity that would govern the proposed Bangsamoro state.

Agabin, replying to a query from Justice Morales, said the BJE created by the MOA was higher than a public corporation and was actually an "associated state" with "no many powers" not provided for under the Constitution.

"The President does not have the power to create a political unit or a public corporation, that's vested in the legislature," Agabin said, adding that the Executive Branch, which negotiated the treaty, may not bind Congress to comply with the MOA provisions.

Gaspin also queried Agabin on whether the MOA should be regarded as a treaty which would need Senate ratification. Agabin replied yes, adding that the MOA should also have given the MILF an international personality or a status of a belligerent.

Agabin agreed with the observation of Justice Leonardo Quisumbing that the presence of the foreign affairs secretary, representatives of the United States, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and the Organization of Islamic Conference rather seem to underscore the MOA's significance than the MOA was a diplomatic document.

Justice Adolfo Azcuna observed that the MOA might be construed under international law as something binding on the government. He said that if the MOA is signed, it would circumvent the government to change its internal laws, including the Constitution, to validate or support the MOA provisions.

"It's not a defense, under international law, to say [later] that we can't change our internal law because by signing the MOA, we also committed to change our Constitution and our internal laws," Azcuna said.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno explored the way the government has dealt with the MILF, whether as a liberation movement, a revolutionary organization or a lawless group.

Agabin said the Constitution does not provide for the right to armed revolt and that aspirations should be expressed through democratic means.

Puno also inquired about how the President should have exercised her military powers in dealing with the MILF, from the calling on the Armed Forces to the imposition of martial law. Agabin said the President opted to use her "lesser powers" as an incident to negotiate peace with the MILF.

U.P. LAW CENTER
TRAINING AND CONVENTION DIVISION
announces the
2008 PRE-WEEK REVIEW
ENROLLMENT NOW GOING ON
Classes Start: September 1, 2008
- 100 hours of Pre-Week Lectures in U.P. Diliman
- Voluminous WRITTEN HAND-OUTS & Last Minute Materials

MILF bucks renegotiation: We're ready for war

Front page A1

in prepare for war" but is "determine the next steps" it would take in the face of current developments.

Earlier on Thursday, Malacañang said the government would not sign the memorandum of agreement in its present form because of the strong and widespread opposition to it and the new outbreak of violence in Mindanao.

Iqbal said the MILF will not agree to any renegotiation because as far as the rebels are concerned, the MOA was a "done deal."

"We will not accept it. Our position is clear. We will not renegotiate with them. It's a done deal. We will hold on to it and assert it," he said.

"It has already been initialed, which means the government has accepted it," he added.

'Done deal'

The rebel leader reiterated the MILF position in a phone interview with reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

The position of the MILF is very clear. As early as Aug. 2 in Kuala Lumpur, we came out with an official statement that as far as the MOA-AD is concerned, it's a done deal. We will not agree to any negotiation. We will stick to it. We will assert it," Iqbal said.

Asked what the MILF would do if the government were to insist on revising the MOA, Iqbal said: "Your guess is as good as mine. It takes two to tango. Both parties should agree. In the peace talks, you cannot impose."

No signing: consultations first

Dimaluta said just as it was the privilege of the MILF to say what it is saying, it was also the privilege of the government to say it can't sign the MOA in its present form.

He said the government still has to consult stakeholders—civil society, bishops and the various people affected in Mindanao—to determine what it should do next.

"[These consultations] will provide guidance to the President and to every body on what steps to take," Dimaluta said.

Aside from making these countermoves, he said the government's other priority was being in justice the perpetrators of the recent violent attacks in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga provinces and "to rebuild the lives of people who become victims of these atrocities."

Waves of protests

Under the proposed memorandum of agreement on ancestral domains, negotiated after secret talks in Malaysia last July, a Bangsamoro homeland would be created out of an expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to be governed by a so-called Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

Where the terms of the MOA leaked out, however, a storm outrage erupted, with legislators, Mindanao officials and various sectors protesting that it would mean a territorial dismemberment of the Philippines and the creation of a separate state for the Muslims in Mindanao.

Mindanao officials who said substantial areas of their territories were proposed to be included in the Moro homeland without their consent went to the Supreme Court to stop the signing of the MOA. The high court issued a restraining order and is now hearing petitions seeking to nullify the agreement. (See story on Page A1.)

Almost immediately, MILF rebels went on the attack in North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte, killing more than a hundred and displacing tens of thousands more.

'Impatient' field commanders

The MILF leaders have blamed the attacks on their "field commanders" ostensibly becoming impatient with the delay in the implementation of the MOA.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the fighting in the south had changed the "basic premise" of the peace talks and called on the "MILF alliboard" rebels to lay down their arms if they wanted to talk peace with the government.

Iqbal said the MILF was "observing and closely following the situation" and has "no way plan because we still give priority to the peace talks."

He said the MILF would not abandon the peace talks. "It's a matter of principle.

Bishop calls for sobriety

CAGAYAN DE ORO ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO Ledesma fears that the cancellation of the MOA may lead to war.

"The cancellation should not mean the end of the peace process, but should lead to a review of key provisions in the MOA. This may be due to misunderstanding and the result of lack of consultation on the objectives of the MOA," said Ledesma who chairs the Bishop-Ulama Conference.

Ledesma called on the government and the MILF to immediately return to the negotiating table.

"Let us all be sober in discussing this. We should not be against the REACH itself, and instead conduct more consultations in the community," he said.

We believe that the best way to r the problem to Mindanao is by reg political settlement," Iqbal

In Davao City, lawyer Rowely Bland, convenor of the Initiative Peace in Mindanao (InPeace), s government's new terms in the ne Lomo—to dialogue, demobilize and militants—could spur more violence.

Shortcut

Bland said the government was short-cut the alternative agenda talks with the MILF.

InPeace's position is that dissemi and demobilization should logically the outbreak of any negotiated politic settlement, after the resolution of the substantive issues in the agenda o economic, social and political right

"It [the government] is totally dissing the framework that politic social justice are prerequisites to p she said.

Castigating GMA

Iqbal said the issue on ancestr main was the third and last aspect Tripoli Agreement of 2001 that nee be resolved before the MILF and t government can discuss a comp transitive peace pact.

The aspects on security and rem ilies and relief and rehabilitati were agreed in May 2002, he said.

Abdulmisbah Macapaz, the lea

Medical board topnotcher plans to go to America

Front page A1

"I did not expect to end up on this list," he told the Inquirer yesterday in an interview. He learned about his achievement from a friend late Thursday night.

Garcia said he had promised himself that if he topped the board exams, he would take the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) in November.

"Working in the United States will make me to become a better doctor," said Garcia, who plans to specialize in interventional cardiology. "Of course, financial stability is one of my primary considerations."

He lamented that the salary of a practicing physician in the Philippines ranged from P14,000 to P20,000 a month.

It was measly compared to the $3,000 to $5,000 (P135,000 to P227,000) a month he could earn in the United States.

"It is too meager considering that we have to work at least eight hours every day and 24 hours straight every three days," he said.

Expecting miracles

The young doctor also noted the sad reality that most medical practitioners in the country come from well-off families.

"They wouldn't have been able to afford medical school if they didn't have the money," Garcia said.

Aside from the low compensation, Filipino doctors have to work using decrepit medical facilities and deal with impoverished patients who cannot afford health care.

"It is very sad to see patients who expect miracles from us," said Garcia, who was assigned to government hospitals such as the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC), Rizal Medical Center and East Avenue Medical Center.

Beyond hope

He said the patients he had encountered were usually beyond hope because they always "are in a very advanced stage."

He shows how passionate he is about his profession by saying that he would continue to practice medicine in the country even if he would be offered a lucrative job abroad.

"Even if I am offered a job abroad, I will still choose to stay in the country because I want to help my countrymen," he said.

Garcia also said the move of government officials to transfer the residence of professionals from the country was "understandable and laudable to a certain extent."

House Bill 4580

The board topnotcher was referring to House Bill 4580, authored by Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Arnado, who warned that unless Congress moved quickly to discourage Filipino professionals from leaving the country, "our hospitals and even our colleges and universities may be emptied of teaching staff and other competent practitioners."

Then Arnado's bill is enacted, all Filipinos registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) would have to perform at least 24 months of service in the country before they could seek greener pastures abroad.

Arnado's bill would cover doctors, nurses, pharmacists, midwives, medical technologists, physical therapists, engineers, teachers, tailors, accountants, interior designers, mortuarians and criminologists.

"But they should also make sure that these professionals are well-compensated and provide them with upgraded facilities to better serve the people," Garcia stressed.

A privilege

Despite his plans to work abroad, he said he would remain in the Philippines.

"There is no place better than home," said Garcia, who is the first doctor in a family of businessmen.

To medical practitioners who have lost hope in the profession or who plan to shift to other jobs, like nursing, he frowned, saying the young doctor said giving up medicine was like throwing away a rare gift.

"Medicine is a privilege. It allows you to touch lives, heal the sick and bring happiness," Garcia said.

MARLON DIAZ-GARCIA poses with his mother Luisa after learning he is on the medical board examination r Friday.

ENGAGE YOU

The 2nd Philippine International Motor Show

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

And then were none ... Last RP ...

From page A1

ay of MILF commander Abdullah Macapaar, alias Bravo, who led the attacks on Pikit, Datu Piang, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Datu Montawal and Shariff Saydona Mustapha towns, said: "Allah will soon castigate" the President for "usurping" on the agreement with the rebels.

To die fighting

"Like my brothers, all of us in the MILF were deceived by the government into this deal, into this agreement. Soon, Allah will castigate President Arroyo," Ali-Dumarisman, a member of the MILF's local executive monitoring team in Lanao, said.

He also said his brother had no plans of surrendering.

"He will die fighting than be arrested or surrender. He will never surrender," he said.

Abdusalaman said the government is now spending billions of pesos "to scrap everything to war."

"What is more expensive? To sign the MOA or declare war?" he asked. Reports from Geoffrey Mathieu, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Grace Castel-Albasin, Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao and Christine Avendaño

From page A1

ric Sandra Sanz, 4-1, in their 67-kg clash in taekwondo, yielding all the difference in the scores during her devil-may-care attempt to reverse the fight's outcome in the homestretch.

Rivero eventually lost the chance to fight for the bronze—and emerge her country's sole first- the 2004 Athens Olympics—when Sanz lost to South Korea two time world champion Hwang Kung-seon, 3-1, in the quarterfinals.

She would have fought in the repechage if the Croatian went all the way to the finals.

Devastating

"I don't ... know ..." Rivero, crushed and sobbing, murmured as she tried to face reporters immediately after the fight at the University of Science and Technology Beijing Gymnasium.

Like boxer Harry Tanamor and teammate Edwardo Go before her, Rivero blew her chance to secure the Philippines from the ignominy of a medal whitewash in the Olympics, an anomaly that has haunted local sports for three consecutive Summer Games.

The country's campaign also drew blanks at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics.

"Maskit talaga, masakit. Di's really devastating] for her," bemoaned national coach Rocky Stanton. "Yung preparasyon na ng ginawa nina Yeni at Edenlor, para silang dinaanan sa impiyerno [Yeni and Edenlor went through the proverbial hell preparing for this]. So, I can just imagine how they feel."

Underdog

Rivero entered the yellow-and-aqua marine mat of the packed fight arena—answering to the Croatian who had beaten her to the last of three Olympic berths at last year's world qualifying in Manchester, England.

Giving away three inches in height to her foe, Rivero was nevertheless the aggressor in the first two rounds as she hounded the 24-year-old Sanz with pestering hail of kicks.

The first decisive exchange of the match, halfway through the second round, saw both the Croatian and Rivero putting themselves on the scoreboard. Sanz tagged the Filipino with a 45-degree kick to the body but was herself rocked by a counter blow to the midsection.

As expected Philippine sports officials held their breath as the gallery-packed crowd watched with little getting a warning for backing away.

Pressure load

Then Sanz took the lead early in the third round, landing a kick on Rivero's midsection as she threat forward for an attack, and then scored the crucial third and fourth points on defensive kicks that foiled the Filipino's sudden counteroffensive.

"I started] panic] had because the Rivero] was faster and dangerous," Sanz later told Croatian reporters. "That's why I was very, very cautious [in the first two rounds]. But when I got my rhythm, my experience took over."

Both Olympic and Filipino Aficionados, the head of the national taekwondo association, accepted defeat but said what they said was the pressure load that Rivero carried to the fight.

"Sa umpisa, nito nga dalid nagaling yung Croatian—ito yung galing niya nguyon 1966 but because the Croatian has improved]," said Avenajado. "Siempre yung bonnes ni Yeni dalid at [Yeni lost her bonyets because of the] pressure.

Valuable experience

"Hindi niya ang pag-use ng inong bayon [She carried the country's hopes]."

An Olympic stint for Rivero at the Beijing Games would have ended the country's 12-year medal drought. Light flyweight boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco won the Philippines' last medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

The defeat was especially painful to Rivero, who as a 16-year-old, lost the fight for the silver to rival heroine Elnaret Myrzakhiev, 2-1, at the Athens Games and then dropped her ouster in the bronze to South Korean Hwang.

"They deserve the gold but I lose," said Rivero. "I'll give her space, I'll let her rest. I told her to treasure this valuable experience. Bata pa kasi ya naman si Yeni [She's still very young]."

S. America + Africa = 9 golds; Jamaica, 5 golds

From page A1

sports officials and the dismay of their fans.

In Brazil, disgruntled backers trawled the national Olympic committee's website to complain about the results in the jiujitsu. "Brasil minha in dores Olympian" was among the messages posted. In Nigeria, the nation's departure for China was preceded by public bickering among top sports officials as to whether the athletes were prepared.

This continental divide is decades old, and the International Olympic Committee has tried to narrow it with financial assistance to underperforming nations. But the gap remains wide.

2 continents, 9 golds

Through Thursday's Olympic events, Africa and South America together had won nine of the 237 available gold medals, two fewer than Australia. Overall, South America, Central America and Mexico had won 18 medals, one of more than 700 awarded so far, while Africa had won 23...excluding 11 by the perennially strong distance runners of Kenya and Ethiopia.

The IOC's Olympic Solidarity program provides funds to weak sporting nations and offers scholarships so their promising athletes can upgrade their training, often abroad. Over the past four years, the program's budget was US$244 million—and the IOC has unqualified confidence in how the money is wisely spent.

However, Kevan Gosper, an IOC member who is vice chair of Olympic Solidarity, said the weaker countries have a "moving target" as the sporting superpowers constantly find new ways to stay on top.

"What we're working on in Solidarity is keeping the back end of the runway in the runway," Gosper said. "If we weren't spending that money, we'd find that the runway would break in two and we'd have one more valley."

585 IOC athletes

About 300 athletes from 130 countries are competing in Olympic events in pursuit of the scholarships, according to Olympic Solidarity official Jersey Wicland. They included Gayshon Benjamin Bandgett, who runs Togo's first Olympic-caliber event.

The dearth of medals is understandable in much of subSaharan Africa, where poverty is widespread and training facilities limited. The underpopulation manner is more puzzling in South America, where a majority of nations have won only a handful of medals in all of Olympic history—11 for Venezuela and Colombia, 10 for Uruguay, four for Peru, two for Ecuador, one for Paraguay, none ever for Bolivia.

Brazil breakdown

Brazil by all logic should be a vibrant exception...a populous, sports-loving and increasingly prosperous nation. Yet its results thus far in Beijing—eight medals, including one gold...have been a disappointment at home.

David Colelras, a commentator for Brazil's Gazo Hora newspaper, noted that the country's strengths are in team sports such as football and volleyball, not in many other Olympic disciplines.

"Sports like swimming and track and field are activities that demand planning, full-time dedication and concentration," he wrote, suggesting that in Brazil there is "no prospect for success or a future career" in these sports.

Cesar Cielo did win Brazil's first-ever swimming gold in the 50-meter freestyle, but wasn't on his return home that his success hinged largely on three years of training in the United States.

"Brazil has good infrastructure...what it lacks is competition," Cielo said in a news conference. "In the competitions in the United States, you look next to you and you see Michael Phelps."

No gov't funding

In Chile, which has won only 13 medals in Olympic history, national government funding for sports development is a major problem, said Ivan Mahnovic, a Chilean sports broadcaster covering the Beijing Games.

"The public schools in Chile—they can't get a field to play on or a ball for basketball," he said. "There's no money for sports, so the results are no surprise."

Mexico is another chronic Olympic underachiever, a country of 107 million people with only 11 gold medals since its first games in 1932. The 11th—won Wednesday by Guillermo Perez in taekwondo...triggered celebrations in Mexico and a congratulatory phone call from President Felipe Calderon.

Before that victory, Mexico had won only a single bronze medal. Olympic columnist Ruben Romero of the newspaper Reforma called it "a thirty-leg collapse." Commentators blamed everything from poor coaching and bureaucratic infighting to inadequate training facilities and illness in the national team.

"Disappointment is part of our daily routine," wrote German filmmaker Cassavo in the newspaper El Universal. "There is no culture of triumph."

Mexico's yearly funded schools aren't part of the blame, as child obesity becomes pandemic.

Most governments schools offer little to the way of sports; often the only facility is a cement courtyard.

Nigerian football

In Africa, Nigeria is one of the few countries with potential to be a sporting powerhouse...it has 140 million citizens and billions of dollars yearly in oil revenues. But the corruption and mismanagement that have left the country impoverished also have undermined its sports infrastructure.

Many of Nigeria's top athletes live abroad and don't train regularly with their teammates. What training facilities do exist in Nigeria are substandard.

Top Olympic officials had to step in earlier this year to ban numerous decrepit and dilapidated weighing in gyms to prevent more fatal trip to Beijing. At times past Olympics, officials outnumbered competitors.

One bright spot is Nigeria's football team, which has resulted the gold-medal match. Nigerians have second outdoor television sets powered by rotary gasoline generators to watch the games.

But for most Nigerians, who get by on less than US$1 per day the Olympics take a back seat to the daily struggles of feeding their families and paying school fees.

AP

ISSN 0116-2042 INQUIRER Vol. 27 No. 259

OPINION

Stalled

EDITORIAL

FACED WITH WIDESPREAD—AND INTENSIFYING—opposition, President Macapagal-Arroyo has abandoned her quest to secure acceptance from both Congress and the courts, as well as from the public, of an ill-conceived Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain that her administration negotiated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said Thursday the government would not sign the MOA "in its present form" and would instead review its provisions.

The move is a complete turnaround from the administration's earlier position, which was to push for its adoption, even if it meant amending the Constitution. The constitutionality of the MOA has been challenged before the Supreme Court and at least one justice has indicated that some of its provisions might have indeed violated the fundamental law. While the administration initially sought to defend the MOA, Dureza said Malacañang would no longer wait for the Court to decide but simply refuse to sign it. And he blamed the MILF for it, saying, in reference to the shooting, killing and burning campaign unleashed by rebel forces in several towns of Mindanao, "They committed terrorist activities."

But if the situation has turned into a bloody mess, it is a mess largely of the administration's own making. Firstly, it negotiated without consulting other stakeholders, like the people in the areas proposed for inclusion in the Bangsamoro homeland, so that it was caught by surprise by the vehemence of the opposition to the MOA. Secondly, its panel of negotiators apparently gave in to many MILF demands without considering their legal implications. In the draft the MOA, because of its many contentious flaws and its many objectionable provisions which would grant status in practice as a gubernatorio, appears to have been designed to fail, giving rise to suspicions that it is meant to hide some hidden, self-serving agenda, specifically a constitutional amendment that would allow Mr. Arroyo to remain in power beyond 2010.

There is no clearer proof of how poorly studied and badly crafted the MOA is than that the administration is now calling for a review of its provisions. The irony is that the review is likely to be assigned to the same retired military generals who botched up the job in the first place: Presidential Private Advisor Hermogenes Esperon and the chief government negotiator, Rodolfo Garcia.

There is an even bigger problem here: MILF negotiators have said they consider the MOA a done deal. The administration knows this, and this is the reason it is careful to avoid talking about a re-negotiation. So how will it persuade the MILF to take part in revisiting the MOA? Or failing that, how does it propose to make the MILF accept any changes it might introduce, collaterally, to make some provisions conform with the Constitution or acceptable to most stakeholders?

Further complicating an already explosive situation is the government's pledge to bring to justice the commanders of MILF forces that murdered civilians and looted several communities in Mindanao. The MILF has said it would deal with those surrendering to its own processes and vowed to protect them if government forces moved to effect their arrest. That looks like a signal that they would get nothing worse than a slap on the wrist, which will not sit well with the communities they had victimized. It's an attitude that will not stay the MILF any friends or support for a peace agreement, but maybe they don't care? On the other hand, if the government tries to take the rebel commanders by force, it could spark a wider conflagration in Mindanao.

To all indications, the peace process has been stalled. And it is hard to see how it can be restarted again any time soon, given the heat and acrimony generated by the MOA's disclosure and the ensuing distress and the violence it has spawned. The one hopeful note amid the gnashing of teeth and finger-pointing is that both sides have not completely shut the door to a dialogue. Ibrahim Murad, the MILF chief, said they remain "optimistic that they can still save the peace process," although he has not said how that can be done.

But with the MOA now in shreds, it seems certain that Mr. Arroyo will not see the beginning of a lasting peace in the last two years of her administration. The worst she can hope for is that there will be no war—and that will depend on how both sides handle the delicate situation now prevailing.

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jacinto Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Melquiades S. Gunigan
Editorial Consultant Ricardo Cardenal Cardinal Vidal
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueva
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Sun.Star Publications Group Nestor G. Pabalan
Chief, News Desk Ruben C. Almadrones
National Editor Francisco S. Tatad Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jose N. Sandoval Jr.
Associate Editors Ramon Farolan • Ricardo Saludo
Chief Photographer Jose U. Sonnet III
Art & Design Director Lisa T. B. Villareal
Board Chairman Helen Y. Dee
President Alexandre Pierre Augustin
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato S. Ramiro
VP for Advertising Felix R. Ocampo
AVP for Circulation Susan Sison S. Tan
All rights reserved.

Peace premises

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

PEACE FOLLOWS PAIR. THAT IS THE LOGIC of any peace agreement. It comes after a period of conflict, seeking to erase the basis for war. Yet what we have in Mindanao today seems to be the exact opposite. A peace agreement has provoked renewed conflict. What happened? What lessons might we draw from this turn of events?

First, I believe that we became so complacent about Southern Mindanao that we forgot there was a war on hold in that part of the country. Many were uncertain that Mindanao was generally quiet because the dominant Moro armed groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, had agreed to explore the option of peace. This uncertainty has been partly caused by the fact that since 2001, when the framework for the negotiations with the MILF was signed, we have been hobbled by national issues centering on the impeachment of the Arroyo presidency.

Second, the protracted negotiations had did since a routine of closed-door technical meetings that tended to minimize the necessity for continual consultations with significant publics. That is why the whole clique and the document remained in the purported the stigma of something murky and conspiratorial. Instead of welcoming it as a breakthrough, nearly everyone took the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) as an intriguing due to an unfinished script. This doesn't do justice at all to the painstaking and exhaustive work that went into the crafting of the document.

Third, the response from the Arroyo government was far from reassuring. Instead of defending the controversial provisions of the MOA-AD point by point, the regime's spokespersons quickly retreated and took the very unusual step of saying that the terms of the agreement were not final until congressional action, a plebiscite, and a Charter amendment made them so. This situation was aggravated when the regime again invoked executive privilege to justify its refusal to release the final draft agreement. And now it is withdrawing the MOA-AD.

Fourth, a visit to the MILF internet website clearly shows a healthy debate between moderates and radicals, between pragmatists and skeptics, within the Moro community. There are bets or bets there among those that exist in the Filipino community. Indeed, consensus is never easy and never big by persuasion precisely a test of leadership. But both the government and the MILF have shown an astounding lack of readiness to join in the hotheads in their midst. And so, any opposition elsewhere that produced the MOA-AD in good faith on the way to enduring peace in Mindanao, at least the least they meant it is for nothing more than a device to achieve other things.

What might we learn from all this?

First, I think we must to constantly remind ourselves of something very obvious. But a peace agreement is an alternative to continuing conflict. Many of us appear to have forgotten that the controversial MOA-AD, which recognizes the legitimacy of a Bangsamoro homeland, was a product of a prolonged negotiation in a period of truce. We should not become so agreed to talk.

Second, those who sit at the negotiating table cannot take for granted their mandate to negotiate. Such mandates goes beyond the formal stipulation of representation in the case of the government, or mere possession of an armed force, in the case of the MILF. It has to be renewed and validated periodically through open consultations, amid the shifting tides of public opinion. My sense is that our leaders at various levels failed to prepare the public.

Third, while peace talks are best conducted in quiet surroundings, doubled here the processes of the mass media and agitated communities, we should never underestimate the role of regular media updates and consultations with stakeholders on crucial points. Such talks are an assertion that they require a constant balancing between discretion and transparency. One way of achieving this is by involving a couple of credible citizens with a deep interest in peace to observe the talks. If the agreement is reasonable and shortchanged, the same individuals can be harnessed to explain to the public its provisions.

Fourth, nothing perhaps is more crucial to the success of any peace effort than the credibility of the negotiating parties themselves. This is a question of basic trust. If the people cannot trust the leaders who make decisions in their name, how can they possibly support any agreement that such leaders sign, including as fundamental as the territorial and political integrity of the nation? If Mr. Arroyo was really keen to have a legacy of peace in Mindanao, she should have known that behind Gen. Hermogenes Esperon it was upon shoulder the pile of child impressive. They suffer from the same credibility deficit.

Finally, a message to the MILF leadership. From the start you would have known that Ms. Arroyo's mandate to negotiate for the Filipino nation was a big question mark. But you went ahead and dismissed this as an internal problem. Now, the Filipino people, believing that what was important was to advance the talks and get the government and the major international powers in the region to affirm your presence, I think you have succeeded in doing that. But all of that is now being nullified by the atrocities committed by MILF troops and by the public fury over the barbaric acts committed by MILF commanders here and there.

Peace ultimately belongs in the idealists; it is too precious to leave it entirely in the hands of pragmatists.

• • •

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Good apples, do your part!

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I AM NOT SURE WHAT THE SCOPE OF THE ongoing investigation by a panel of retired Supreme Court justices is. But judging from what I read in the papers, it certainly should not be limited only to purported impeachable conduct revealed by certain members of the Court of Appeals with regard to the tax involving the Government Service Insurance System and Meralco. Because it has certainly, if inadvertently, exposed a lot of dirty linen of the appellate court to a public watching, what with most of those facing the panel refraining in what can only be called an injudicious manner, rehab to the opposite of how they should behave in the first place.

Only outsiders what has been uncovered during the investigation: justices entering into discussions about a pending case not only outside the courtroom but also with those who have no business whatsoever discussing the case, describing as "evidence" what a flashdrive or sophomore law student would instantly consider hearsay, engaging in name-calling with fellow justices, or casting aspersions on their character and their integrity.

Actions and words which are ingratiating, setsome, incontinuous, inappropriate (also, inadvisable, misguided, hasty, rash, ill-judged, ill-considered)—which is how "injudicious" is defined.

Of course, this is not the first time that the Court of Appeals has been enmeshed in charges of corruption. If I remember right, some justices have received warnings, figuratively slaps on the wrist, and never even removed by the Supreme Court. Definitely last year, there was some kind of scandal in Cebu where several justices made about the granting of temporary restraining orders (TRNs) for financial considerations. But this is the first time appeals court justices are running on each other. As a result, the reputation of the whole Court of Appeals, already impaired, has taken have deteriorated almost beyond repair. Which is why a full-fledged investigation into the extent of corruption and/or incompetence in that institution is called for, which should then be the basis of a major overhaul. Better still ... particularly since Chief Justice Reynato Puno has thrown the ball with matters of the Supreme Court and the rest of the judiciary—perhaps the good apples in the Court of Appeals band and know for a fact that there are good apples) should get together and start the ball rolling, initiating a cleanup among them selves, some sort of a self-policing process.

Preposterous? Never been done? Attained. But it is way better than for the good apples just to sit back and play dead, allowing themselves to be tarred along with the rotten ones. Maybe, they could start by entering into a memorandum of agreement to the effect that they would submit themselves to a lifestyle check, and tell the rest of the 69 members of the appellate members to sign along with them, and if any of their colleagues try to get out of the agreement by claiming that this would be beneath their dignity, then to immediate dismissal. That wasn't dignity is already in tatters, and this is an important first step toward regaining it.

If the above is still considered a fourth rate panacea, it should nevertheless stand until a better one is offered.

In the meantime, just so we don't get off the deep end and think—as we are wont to do—the worst of ourselves, let me apply the ministry know-company principle and share with the reader some vignettes about judicial corruption in a couple of our neighboring countries. (Pss, Virginia, are you still reading?)

A 2006 government-conducted survey on corruption in Thailand blame for the Civil Service Commission and financed by the World Bank and non-foundations) has these findings: 53 percent of households said they had paid bribes when visiting public offices. The bribes averaged 1,000 baht (at the time, $22) per year per household. And here's the part about the justice system: Of those involved in court cases over the two-year period 1999-2000, 18 percent reported that they had been asked to pay bribes averaging 30,000 baht per case—with payments going to the police, public prosecutors, judges, assessors and clerical staff of the court and bailiffsmen. And by the way, in the same survey 26 percent of voters replied that they had been offered money for their votes, averaging 500 baht per household.

Then there is China. From Peoplesquarely: "China's Long March Toward the Rule of Law" (2002), one gets a description of corruption in the Chinese judiciary that could arguably be worse than what is going on in the Philippines: "Rampant corruption within the courts has badly tarnished the image and stature of the judiciary. Judges demanding bribes, meeting on parties to influence the outcome of important cases in the interests of one side only or of an interested outside party—SOME with partners in restaurants or karaoke bars ... Lawyers entertained customers where they received calls late at night to go to settle a bill run up by judges and their friends at restaurants and sometimes in preparation for dropping equivalent of a judge who forgot her purse.

"Even official accounts acknowledge that the corruption is becoming more serious and widespread. The 1999 Supreme People's Procuratorate White Paper noted ... 3,792 members of the judiciary were investigated for crimes, a 46-percent increase over the previous year, including 1,021 cases of illegal personal enrichment, an increase of 186 percent over the previous year."

Victory Journo must show the Filipinos is nearly dying for. Ergo, if the jury must be is worth fighting for. Calling the good apples in the Court of Appeals barrel. In your part.

What Trojan horse?

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

THE TROJAN HORSE DIDN'T SUCCEED GREEKS' by entering the gates of Troy. The Greeks hidden inside the horse had to be understood, so that before or, at night, they could quietly come out and open the gates to their own army before the Trojan men (and) the battle.

But what if the Trojan horse about the hidden Greeks is from the very beginning? So could they (sic) be the echelon against the Greek army?

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1010 (SRN), introduced by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel et al., states in its purpose the revision of the Constitution to "correct the defects" in the 1987 charter. The 11 so many proposed Charter amendments are related to federalism, one of which, as mentioned in my last column, is to prohibit the president from naming an investigation by the legislature, for any reason whatsoever. But proposed amendments in SRN 1010 (which, however, will probably never see print, let alone be debated) are not limited to federalism. I also pointed out that SRN 1010 does not propose the parliamentary system, and has the remainder of the presidential system in substance. The senators retain their terms of office, that is, nonterm. The incumbents shall serve until 2013, the year her constitutional term of office ends. She is, however, not qualified to run again for office under the Constitution, "so why is SRN 1010 being opposed on the ground that it will extend the term of President Arroyo?" (Footnote 1, below.) Many amendments can be introduced anyway. The house can be restored by hidden Trojans, and be constituted into a Greek horse.

Other hidden Greeks (SRN 1010 proponents now refer to them as "Trojans") are "hidden" not only in the sense that they are not publicly identified, but also because they will no longer make it possible for the incumbents to come from opposing parties or coalitions.

SRN 1010 proposes to make appointments by the president that are bypassed twice by the Commission on Appointments considered automatically "withdrawn and without legal effect, with those thus bypassed forever banned from re-nomination or re-appointment.

SRN 1010 proposes that "No retired military officer may be appointed permanently or temporarily to any civilian position in the Government or any of its instrumentalities or agencies, including government-owned or -controlled corporations and their subsidiaries, UNLESS he has retired from the military service at least two years prior to his appointment."

SRN 1010 proposes to abolish the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Sandiganbayan.

SRN 1010 proposes to repeal the constitutional section that GC created the Judicial and Bar Council. (It) gave the Commission on Elections original jurisdiction over contests pertaining to regional, provincial and city officials. (c) limited impeachment complaints against the same official to only once a year; and (d) put foreign loans under the regulation of the monetary authority.

If the presence of such Greeks is known in the Trojan, then one of the latter supports the horse they might want to replace them by Trojans. Provided, of course, that the Greeks don't know about the replacement. Now, if the Greeks know that the Trojans know the secret of the Trojan horse, then what should the Greeks do?

* * *

The people's regard for Senior Aquino. In September 1993, 13 years after the administration of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., SWS surveyed Filipinos' opinions nationwide on the statements, "It is good that Ninoy Aquino became a martyr and a national hero." The survey found opinions favorable by a ratio of nine-to-one: 58 percent agreed, 23 percent disagreed, and (7 percent were undecided.

This week's 25th anniversary of Ninoy's martyrdom is time to recall another 2001 national survey, done in December 1999 when Filipinos were looking forward to the start of the new millennium, of opinions on a number of significant Philippine events in the 20th century. SWS made a list, on its own initiative, of 14 events and themes because soldiers would accept as and can use finder in New Forestry standards. "Could they really do that?" (they asked incredulously. Yes they did. They also told them not to hold PIMA hard their toes, but the acronym stood for Presidential Initiation Action, and you wouldn't waste one of those with your name on it.

And then, out of nowhere one of the students asked, "But who really killed Ninoy?" That was when the "Ninoy" started thinking about "Beyond Conspiracy."

Butch Dalisay, who directed the documentary and Ben Tangco, the scriptwriter and head researcher, literally sifted through volumes of court documentation to give "Beyond Conspiracy" a number of boundaries, like a story being told for the first time.

"Did somebody really get away with murder?"

In the documentary, Mr. Tito Montiel Pobre, the ex-service protector said:

"We've looked at motive, means and opportunity, and it seems to point to a partial solution in the parade. He must now put the last piece in place by probing who had the ability—and the guilt—to serve up the damnedly crime in full view of the entire world."

"The tenacity to kill the political opposition's most charismatic leader in the middle of an unannounced airport is literal daylight—and to kidnap(ed) Ninoy(s) (three of those six monstrous weeks and months before—pushed the limits of Filipino sensibilities ... the plotters must have calculated that, given some time to let off steam, Filipinos would forgive the whole thing. Assassinations in some dark corner where they were unpleasant memories that can be promptly forgotten."

Did we really forget? "Beyond Conspiracy" can help us remember.

Butch Dalisay: dalisaybenedicto@gmail.com) is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

Fast-food escape

EXHAUSTED AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL HOURS LOOKING for a part-time job, walking home dejected from numerous rejections (discouraged and sobbing with some old friends), I was more than glad to realize that I was inside a fast-food store already. I got down by dragging my body and urging myself to keep going. My feet were pushed pronto to nearby stores, which now looked heaven, changing from its original blue state to heaven.

YOUNG BLOOD

Nina R.T. Lanaclete

Then I was in the cashier with her plastered smile. The same thing. And to prolong the agony of my grumbling stomach, the cashier prodded me to my the add-ons I had previously been instructed to order by the nosy attendant.

After around 15 minutes of extended torture, my order finally came. It consisted of a plateful of fast-food burger, a side dish of fries and a cup of soda. I was so hungry that my budding nose—all of which I had to carry to an empty table which I had some difficulty finding.

Finally seated, I inhaled the non-organic smell of the fast-food restaurant. I could not help but notice the sea of people around me. They were all going about their business with deep concentration. Some were in corner nooks, with concentrator workers to think their meals. Others were pretending to be on a diet as they timidly chewed their food as they ate across their boyfriends. Some looked as if all that mattered was the food they were eating. Others were trying to chat their worries away as if their problems were public property, with most of them having crushed souls and fighting angrily at people who looked their way. Still others laughed to show their deep appreciation for everything.

On the other hand, most of the men sat quietly eating their food while doing some note-taking. Some chatted with their phones or napped on the table while discreetly staring at a woman serving a flurry or some spaghetti topped a pair of shorts just slightly longer than panties.

With so many people inside the store, I felt as if some eyes were always on me every time I put food in my mouth.

I was half-way through my meal when a boy wearing a short shirt and freshly trimmed shorts approached and asked for some food. I naturally thought that he was a beggar. Then, being upset-upset would be going around begging for some. Just Administer followed as I took note of his clothes spotless and squeaky-clean face. I told him sopsuckfully, "Excuse me, sir."

Perhaps knowing that his tricks would not work on me, he immediately moved to another table, and did his spiel. Luckily for him, the mother took pity on him and gave her pie away.

The boy finished it in several nanoseconds and left without saying a word. I marveled at how he could stomach the rough treatment he normally got. I was challenged to think about it some more.

The fast-food cashier is almost every Filipino's sweet escape from the hard-to-find hard hits. Looking out from the cozy confines of the store, I observed children barely 7 years old walking around without panties and begging pennies for coins or food. Several children, probably having given up on ever receiving money, just peered through the glass walls, wishing the customers out, their eyes describing their acting starving.

As people left and entered the store after the children, consciously avoiding eye contact with them as if to shut out from view those living images of poverty. Maybe, they were telling themselves they were poor, too. What was going on inside their head, I did not know. But I could sense a lack of sensitivity from reading but not coming enough in most of them.

Looking back to the fast-food counter, I could see lonely sidewalk vendors with their baskets still full of goods. Occasionally drivers waiting in a long line of jeepneys would buy candies or cigarettes to pass the time away. From time to time, dispatchers angrily shooed away jeepney drivers who were loading passengers without waiting in line. And the blaring sounds of the radio were always present.

From the view inside the store and the people serving the quick pleasure and distraction from their normal routines to the people outside, everyone was trying to say something. Each wanted to be heard or wanted people to take notice of them. Fast-food stores have always been noisy. Perhaps, they are the only ones that can provide a temporary shelter from cravings and complaints about nasty prices, problems at home and troubles in the workplace (if they have jobs in the first place). The ones outside clearly wished they were inside the fast-food store to share their burdens with anyone who might care to listen or take notice of their cute sentences. Their children, who had been they looked quite eloquent in their desperate situation.

I for everyone forgotten their manners, like the food-looking fast? Has the battle for survival, made worse by the rising inflation, made Filipinos numb to others' needs as well? Or are we being forced to turn a blind eye to the misery of others because we ourselves are miserable?

* * *

Nina R.T. Lanaclete, 37, is a second year BS Communication Research student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions to mail at youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Season For Remembering

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

THIS SUNDAY AT 10 PM, ON ABS-CBN CHANNEL 2, the foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWPPWP) presents "Beyond Conspiracy: 25 Years After the Aquino Assassination." The film documentary revisits this point in our history and aims to help the viewer arrive at a more informed perception of this national tragedy.

"Beyond Conspiracy" also reaches out to our youth, many of whom are eager to know more about the Philippines' "Season of Remembrance" that, what happened afterwards, and who were the likely masterminds.

With the enthusiastic help of Ms Ma. Reina Magkasina, a history professor at University of the Philippines Los Baños, are more able to do just that. Released in theaters on August 19 but originally dubbed "Beyond Conspiracy," she took it upon her self to contact us and we prevailed upon her to arrange for special advance screenings at UPLB (most popularly) on Aug. 21.

Professor Magkasina only had one day's lead-time to mobilize her students but, "Beyond Conspiracy" was viewed by UBO audiences in two screenings. We at the FWPPWP feel that this defeats the notion that our youth are apathetic and have little interest in "things that happened in the past." Their torrid comments indicate a refreshing thirst to learn more about our history and the lessons we at this very moment writing out their reaction papers to the documentary.

The FWPPWP invites schools, colleges and universities who would like to show "Beyond Conspiracy" in their own auditoria, on campus, to just get in touch with us. Our office is at 3rd floor, Bonifacio Hall. We'll be happy to work something out.

"Beyond Conspiracy" is the fourth documentary produced by the FWPPWP that deals with contemporary history. The previous ones are the landmark "Sierra Milling," followed by "Lakas Sambayanan" and then by "Tilay Ng Himagsikan."

The months of January, February, August and September are really laden with so much historical significance. The name of us who joined the wrong pile to restore Philippine democracy, three months before the assassination of Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

The series of power marches that became known as the First Quarter Storm began in January 1970. Plaza Miranda was bombed and the writ of habeas corpus was suspended on Aug. 21, 1971. On Sept. 21, 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos declared Proclamation 1081, putting the entire country under martial law. Senior Senator Jr., a former senator, was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983, and on Feb. 25, 1986 the Edsa Revolution ended the Marcos dictatorship.

But there is so much more to this than just words—it's a written page—as we (13 members) We of this older generation are obligated to understand the significance of these events in the lives of our youth. We have to help the new generation acquire a sense of history.

Quite recently, a group of college students in a third year in a night program they organized in their school. These young men and women were born after the Edsa Revolution, and they were really interested in my memories of college life under martial law.

I told them that we lived pretty much the same as them (of today). We had our early years and we had parties too. But late night pranks in view out of the question and to our school, soldiers from the Metropolitan Command manned the entrances and inspected our bags for us called "safe search" propaganda."

What my young audience found particularly appalling was when I said that we could not open long hair like the Beatles or the Rolling Stones because soldiers would accost us and cut our locks in New Forestry standards. "Could they really do that?" (they asked incredulously. Yes they did. They also told them not to hold PIMA hard their toes, but the acronym stood for Presidential Initiation Action, and you wouldn't waste one of those with your name on it.

And then, out of nowhere one of the students asked, "But who really killed Ninoy?" That was when the "Ninoy" started thinking about "Beyond Conspiracy."

Butch Dalisay, who directed the documentary and Ben Tangco, the scriptwriter and head researcher, literally sifted through volumes of court documentation to give "Beyond Conspiracy" a number of boundaries, like a story being told for the first time.

"Did somebody really get away with murder?"

In the documentary, Mr. Tito Montiel Pobre, the ex-service protector said:

"We've looked at motive, means and opportunity, and it seems to point to a partial solution in the parade. He must now put the last piece in place by probing who had the ability—and the guilt—to serve up the damnedly crime in full view of the entire world."

"The tenacity to kill the political opposition's most charismatic leader in the middle of an unannounced airport is literal daylight—and to kidnap(ed) Ninoy(s) (three of those six monstrous weeks and months before—pushed the limits of Filipino sensibilities ... the plotters must have calculated that, given some time to let off steam, Filipinos would forgive the whole thing. Assassinations in some dark corner where they were unpleasant memories that can be promptly forgotten."

Did we really forget? "Beyond Conspiracy" can help us remember.

Butch Dalisay: dalisaybenedicto@gmail.com) is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

Compassion and common sense in times of crisis

COMMENTARY

Raul V. Fabella

THE JOINT DECISION OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC MANAGERS one sure bright spot for clinical scientists and fiscal mavericks: the decision made by Malacañang to institute the 9% oil —a decision that came under withering attack from many sources.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in releasing many blasts, has said that the Board of the NBT no oil and the review of the oil deregulation law to help the poor. (Inquirer, 7/19/08). If government hopes to say take, the price of gasoline will fall, the public at large will experiment a price relief.

Malacañang's strategy is to collect the taxes to finance the provision of targeted subsidies for the most vulnerable in society. Thus far, the subsidies have come in the form of a P500-one-time assistance to fishing customers of Meralco, a P2 billion rice subsidy and the promise of a package of infrastructure. The Government and Oil Price Watch (GOPW) proposal (Inquirer, 7/19/08) were in general agreement with the government stance except on the current and use of coal-by-use programs.

The two views are contrasting modes of the concept of safety net programs. In the first case of safety net is borne by government taxes, whether collected or foregone. Which source best provides relief without scrapping the future?

Malacañang's strategy is to collect the taxes to finance the provision of targeted subsidies for the most vulnerable in society. Thus far, the subsidies have come in the form of a P500-one-time assistance to fishing customers of Meralco, a P2 billion rice subsidy and the promise of a package of infrastructure. The Government and Oil Price Watch (GOPW) proposal (Inquirer, 7/19/08) were in general agreement with the government stance except on the current and use of coal-by-use programs.

The two views are contrasting modes of the concept of safety net programs. In the first case of safety net is borne by government taxes, whether collected or foregone. Which source best provides relief without scrapping the future?

The GMA's proposal also called for a review of the 1998 oil price deregulation law blaming it for the high oil prices. Why was the law put in place in the first place? Inflation in pesos? caused by the oil-crisis? Administered pricing in the past? (Lumawig said: not only this ruled was a 10-year aggregate representing a party rate of return.) Relief under administered pricing was a political reflex by government officials or by private groups still operating in the market. Still administered pricing, intended to help the poor, ultimately help the poor?

Nevertheless even that administered pricing in the oil industry will keep world petroleum price fluctuations from being felt in the country. Many countries (Indonesia and Malaysia) have been forced to reflect world prices in the pumps to stem fiscal hemorrhage. Before 1998, pump price was administered through the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF) and net subsidies investors had to be reflected, if with a lag, in the pump prices. The subsidized OPSF also guided the fiscal health of the Philippine government. It was bankrupted by Ramos, starved by Estrada, and resisted slow growth and poverty. OPSF was thankfully abolished in 1998.

Before water distributors was privatized in 1997, water in Manila was "cheap." The problem: It was not available. The very poor bought tracked water at exorbitant prices. It was not poor and on it neighbors. Also like a cousin for temporary relief is paid for by government disability.

The government cannot borrow across the safety net provisions that are made concrete with cash or relief on the poorest to ensure the minimum number of people falling below some accepted standards (say, Millennium Development Goals' $1-a-day poverty). This concentration of relief on the poorest produces the greatest bang. More people are thus kept from falling below the line.

By contrast, the price relief due to the oil requires that benefits the rich and poor alike with the share of the poorest quickly dissipating into insignificance. A targeted subsidy program for public utility conveyance (perhaps with the use of vouchers) would convey much more relief to public conveyance riders for the same fiscal drain. Keeping the poor above water requires concentration rather than dissipation of relief.

The three beneficiaries against targeted subsidy is the "no free lunch" proponent. The rejection can be very lonely dismissing relief to the intended few. Alternatives, my especially acute problem in weak states where investor risks. (Note the Court of Appeals scandal.) Unfortunately, the technology of targeting has become smarter with the use of multiple-layered identifiers such as electronic IDs, people who based access and verifiable numbers as we have the banks.

Finally, the government keep its hands from cutting the socks (as intended for the poor? Notably in this area with wars of wars economic skepticism. Many of this, Malacañang offered to let the churches and NGOs be a guilty in the safety net delivery. Not a bad move. There is ample room for public-private partnership on the targeting and delivery system. Fast tracking much needed infrastructure investment projects—last year's Aman's dazzling—will create jobs and enable income growth. Government even needs to raise its tax revenue. By lowering the "no taxes" to inflation and lowering the tax treatment of the 13th month bonus. Other than our taxpayers nothing. Replacing the lockstep mandatory drug test for drivers and reminder our with random testing will embolden the bribe-hungry jeepney and tricycle drivers. Securing the Philippines is not the only thing we need to do.

Broadcast spending must target not only mitigation but also the seeding of a future less dependent on fossil fuel, incentives for increased use of, and investment in, renewable energy. It is now high time we made utility reduce their emissions of the toxic nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide that are causing acid rain. In the case of land, the opportunity of enabling supreme farming in moderate our food sector lockstep, for this, we may need to seriously rethink Sec. 27 of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. Not only that, we also have the power of the rural credit markets to benefit the small farmers.

The nation is duty-bound to provide safety nets in the name of compassion. The best strategies are those where compassion and common sense meet.

Raul V. Fabella is a professor at the UP School of Economics. He is also a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology.

THEY SAID

Bad

"How can you invoke executive privilege on something when there is no question yet? These people just talk and talk without knowing what they are talking about. No wonder the President is getting such a bad reputation because of the people around her."

Sen. Loi Estrada on Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza, a deputy of the executive secretary, who invokes privilege would be invoked if the Senate requests to inquire into the fertilizer fraud issue. He later apologized to Esperon

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
(An Organization of Philippine Newspapers)

Moros covered by Ipra?

LETTERS

THIS IS A REACTION TO MICHAEL Tan's column titled "Recurrent dictum," (INQUIRER, 8/13/09). I am a half-blooded Moro whose dream is to live in a place where hatred doesn't exist. But it pains me every time I see people from different tribes, ideologies, biases and social and political backgrounds fighting over a piece of land and over a "piece of paper" (Fr. Joaquin Bernas' reference to the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain [MOA-AD]).

I'm pointed out how strange it is that the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra) is not mentioned in the MOA-AD. He also said that Muslim groups are actually included in the definition of indigenous peoples.

But granting without accepting that the Ipra includes the Moros, I wonder why the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the agency in charge of implementing the Ipra, only recognizes four Moro tribes, namely Badjao, Kalagan, Kalibugan and Sama when there are 13 Moro tribes in the Philippines. (How about the other nine tribes? Are they considered non-indigenous?

Also, I wonder why there is an mention of any Moro in the strong 22 who were granted ancestral domain titles from July 2002 to December 2008, or of any ancestral domain being recognized by any Moro tribe (or the NCIP for it) of 71 ancestral domain areas prioritized for 2005, although the implementation of Ipra is the last-common Region in Muslim Mindanao is one of the 12 millionaire agenda of the NCIP. I wonder why there is no NCIP regional office in the ARM.

—KHALSHARIEF, khalsharief@yahoo.com

Inquirer biased against Justice Sabio

THE INQUIRER IS WIDELY REgarded as a balanced newspaper. But a current analysis of its stories, news columns and editorials on the Supreme Court investigation into the alleged bribery involving court of Appeals justices seems to indicate that the Inquirer is obsessed to "run down" Justice Ana Sabio. For there is a common thread that an observant reader can discern—a uniform "spin." If one wishes to be judgmental—bear in reporting.

Let me illustrate. Columnists Ramon Tulfo, Neal Cruz and the editors of the Inquirer do not always agree, but have to how they consistently agree on Justice Sabio: "Sabio wanted 350M bribe" (Inquirer banner headline on Aug. 1); "Well...! As they say in the police, only a criminal can rat on his fellow criminals because he knows their modus operandi." (Ramon Tulfo, 8/2/09); "He is looking more and more like a man who got a juicy Palace offer but tried to cash in quickly by basically making it obvious to the other side he would be open to a counter-offer. The problem with trying to play both sides off against each other is that sometimes it leaves the double-dealer left holding nothing but an empty bag." (Editorial, 8/14/09); "An ethical person would have inhibited himself from the case. Rt. Sabio doggedly dissed after it. Why?" (Neal Cruz, 8/16/09).

Oddly enough, the Supreme Court is still receiving evidence on the investigation, oddly enough, the Inquirer editors and columnists seem to have predetermined that Justice Sabio is the wrongdoer, oddly enough, none of the Inquirer editors and columnists are speaking out for Justice Sabio and the oddest thing of all would be if the Inquirer Court were to clear Justice Sabio and condemn others; then we would have a situation where the Inquirer would have actually denounced a man's reputation who, as it turns out, was innocent.

If the Inquirer has trained its guns on Justice Sabio at a premature time, it lays itself susceptible to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.'s warning: "The only difference between the expression of an opinion and an incitement is the speaker's enthusiasm for the result."

And after the Supreme Court concludes its present investigation, I shall reveal all your articles remembering I.S. (Don't fear: "he shall not come from exploration, and the end of all one exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

—ANSENT B. CHEDDAR, Suite# 1403 B 1792 Samat Tiles Tower, 1230 Roxas Boulevard, 1300 Pasay City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Bayan and Ortigas Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to (02) 897-8700, 897-8796, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Mining threatens Surigao del Sur

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS our great concern about the mining operations of two companies (Genic ore Development Corp. and Manicaniaves Mining) at Surigao del Sur province. The mining operations of the two firms will adversely affect the watershed and the P300-million worth of irrigation system built by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), which serve the towns of Carmen, Cantilan, Madrid, Carrascal and Lanuza. The mine tailings from the mining operations might also have a negative effect on the Lanuza bay, a rich fishing ground which provides livelihood to fisherfolk in the five towns.

We strongly urge the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop these two companies from proceeding with their mining operations. As party to the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Philippine government has the obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the people's right to food. The possible destruction of the watershed, the irrigation system and Lanuza Bay due to the mining operations of the two firms will violate the right to food of the people because these resources provide their means of livelihood.

FIAN Philippines urges Environment Secretary Lito Atienza to prioritize the protection of the country's food producing resources and the environment, not the promotion of the profit-mining.

—RAFFY REY (ROLITO), advocacy officer, Food First Information & Action Network (FIAN) Philippines, fianphils_2000@yahoo.com

PRO-PEACE. Anti-Moro Islamic Liberation Front Bangsamoro Juridical Entity rally

President Arroyo has no power to create new state

IS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the establishment of the "practically new state" of Bangsamoro. Because, 8/5/09, in a debate of top Republic Senator to the following questions:

1. By what authority did the government agree to the MOA?

2. Granting that retired Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, head of the government panel, received the authority on behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo, what right has she, under the 1987 Constitution, to create the state of Bangsamoro? Her powers as chief executive or even as commander in chief are certainly not sufficient for that purpose.

3. Under the MOA, the Bangsamoro will have as its territory the "ancestral domain" composed of the municipalities in Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte and other provinces. Is Bangsamoro, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi to be established and it still have the power to send representatives to Senate and United Nations agencies. Are there not diplomatic functions and treaty-making powers reserved to the state?

4. Even under a federal system, the national government reserves for itself the power over foreign relations and national defense. This power would be exercised by the RP even before the creation of a federal system of government.

5. Lastly, even though the MOA is definitely not a treaty, Congress is deprived of any participation in the present exercise of giving away national territories or creating a "distinct dominion" state.

My answer is lasting solution to the Mindanao problem within the context of the Constitution, and let us avoid the mistakes-in-convictorial issues like those the world has seen in Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom, Chechnya of Russia, Sabah of the Philippines and Malaysia, Palestine-Israel in the Middle East and Ethiopia-Eritrea in Africa.

—FELIPINA LAVIÑA, ambassador (Ret.), vlavinia@hotmail.com

If GSIS is strong, why isn't there no raise in pensions?

GSIS VICE PRESIDENT ELLA E. Valmocina in her letter "GSIS fund never as strong as it is now." (Inquirer, 8/13/09) evaded the real issue in the clamor for an increase in the pension of government retirees by not mentioning the Government Service Insurance System's consistent implementation of the Republic Annual Increase (RAI) schedule for old pensioners, even before Ramon P. Garcia came to the pension agency.

Under this schedule, the monthly pension of retirees increases by 10 percent every year. Additional increase over and above the 10 percent minimum, is granted

"The Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) between the Government and the MILF violates the Constitution and dismembers the Republic of the Philippines."

Frank M. Drilon

1. **The MOA-AD is unconstitutional because the Executive branch, headed by President Gloria Arroyo, has no authority to commit to the MILF that Congress and the Filipino people will amend the 1987 Constitution to conform to the MOA-AD. This is the fundamental mistake that makes the MOA unconstitutional. Paragraph 7(a.) on Territory of the MOA-AD states that "The Parties to this Agreement commit themselves to the full and mutual implementation of this Framework agreement on territory." In short, the Executive branch commits that the framework agreement on territory – which defines the ancestral domain of the Bangsamoro to cover the entire Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan, as well as inexpensive non-ARMM areas into the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE), among others – shall be approved by Congress and the Filipino people.**

The Executive branch guarantees to the MILF that this amendments to the Constitution and existing laws shall not deviate from the MOA-AD, whether Congress or the Filipino people agree or disagree. Thus, paragraph 7 on Governance of the MOA-AD provides:

> Any provisions of the MOA on Ancestral Domain requiring amendments to the existing legal framework shall come into force upon signing of a Comprehensive Compact and upon effecting the necessary changes to the legal framework with due regard to non-derogation of prior agreements and within the stipulated timeframe to be contained in the Comprehensive Compact.

"Non derogation of prior agreements" means that the changes to the Constitution and existing laws shall not deviate from any provisions of the MOA-AD, which will be a prior agreement at that time of the amendment of the Constitution and existing laws.

The Executive branch also guarantees to the MILF that the results of the plebiscite in non-ARMM areas shall not deviate from the MOA-AD. Thus, paragraph 7(a.ii) on Territory of the MOA-AD provides:

> **Without derogating from the requirements of prior agreements,** the Government stipulates to conduct and disclose, using all possible legal maneuvers, within twelve (12) months following the signing of the MOA-AD, a plebiscite covering the areas as enumerated in the list and depicted in the map as Category B attached hereto (the "Annex").

Thus, the plebiscites are an empty formality. Even if the people vote overwhelmingly against inclusion in the BJE, their votes do not count. The inclusion of all the listed non-ARMM areas into the BJE is a foregone conclusion. The Executive branch commits, represents and guarantees to the MILF that the Constitution and existing laws shall be amended to conform to this MOA-AD, whether Congress or the people in the non-ARMM areas agree or disagree.

The Executive branch is usurping the powers of Congress and the sovereign will of the Filipino people. Under Article XVII (Amendments and Revisions) of the Constitution, only Congress or a constitutional convention can propose amendments to the Constitution. Or the people themselves, through an initiative, may amend the Constitution. The Executive branch has no power to propose amendments to the Constitution, much less commit amendments to the Constitution. The Executive branch cannot also commit that existing laws shall be amended to conform to the MOA-AD because under Section1, Article VI of the Constitution, legislative power is lodged in Congress and the Executive has no legislative powers.

2. **The MOA-AD dismembers the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines. The MOA-AD creates a state called the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity with all sovereign powers and institutions, thus:**

> The parties agree that the BJE shall be **empowered to build, develop and maintain its own institutions,** inclusive of civil service, electoral, financial and banking, education, legislative, legal, economic, and police and internal security force, judicial system and correctional institutions, necessary for developing a progressive Bangsamoro society, the details of which shall be discussed in the negotiation of the Comprehensive Compact.

The listing of institutions that the BJE can create is not exclusive. The BJE is empowered to build, develop and maximize **other state institutions** without limit.

The BJE shall have its "own" legislature whose laws shall not be subject to national laws passed by Congress. The BJE shall also have its "own" courts whose decisions will not be reviewable by the Supreme Court. The most alarming and destructive power granted by the Executive to the MILF is the power to **"build, develop and maintain its own police force and internal security force."** These may extend institutions of the BJE effectively dismember the Republic of the Philippines in violation of express provisions of the Constitution.

Section 6, Article XVI of the Constitution mandates that the "*State shall establish and maintain* **one police force,** *which shall be* **national in scope** *and civilian in character, to be* **administered and controlled by a national police commission.**" This constitutional provision prohibits the existence of any other police force, like the BJE's own police force, within Philippine territory.

Section 18, Article VII of the Constitution mandates that the "President shall be the **Commander-in-Chief** of all **armed forces of the Philippines.**" The President commands all the armed forces of the Philippines through the chain of command, from the Chief of Staff to the various commanders down to the foot soldiers. To command all the armed forces of the Philippines means to control the recruitment, training, discipline, promotion and payment of all the armed forces of the Philippines. Section 19, Article VII of the Constitution also provides that the President shall appoint, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of Congress, "officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain." These provisions of the Constitution prohibits the creation of armed forces, like the BJE's internal security force, that are not under the command and control of the President through the chain of command. Moreover, Sections 4 and 5(4), Article XIII of the Constitution mandates that the regular forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines "*shall be recruited proportionately from all provinces and cities as far as practicable.*" These provisions of the Constitution bar the creation of an armed forces based on ethnic, religious or regional origin.

The BJE's internal security force may include an army, navy and air force. It is a separate armed forces under a separate command from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Together with the BJE's other separate institutions, which the BJE can create without limit, the BJE's own internal security force makes the BJE a **state within a state.**

3. **The MOA-AD incorporates all the 18 non-Muslim indigenous peoples of Mindanao, or the Lumads, into the Bangsamoro without the knowledge and consent of the Lumads. The Lumads learned for the first time of this incorporation when the draft of the MOA-AD were published in the newspapers last August 4, 2008. Under the MOA-AD, there is no plebiscite to determine whether the Lumads want to join the BJE. Paragraph 1 on Concepts and Principles of the MOA-AD simply states:**

> It is the birthright of all Moros and all **indigenous peoples of Mindanao** to identify themselves and be accepted as "Bangsamoro."

All the Lumads, who are not and have never been Muslim, must now **identify and accept themselves as Bangsamoros.** At the stroke of a pen, the Lumads' centuries-old customs, traditions, beliefs and identities are suddenly erased without their knowledge and consent. The Lumads are forced to accept as their "birthright" that they are Bangsamoros, a concept alien to Lumads.

Worse, the ancestral domains of the Lumads, which taken together are larger than the ancestral domains of the Moros, automatically become part of the ancestral domain of the Bangsamoro. Individual Lumads are given freedom of choice to join the Bangsamoro but their ancestral domains will remain with the Bangsamoros whether or not they join the Bangsamoro. This will mean that the Lumads, whose ancestral domains constitute their economic, social and cultural life support system, will become resident in strident indigenous peoples.

The incorporation of the Lumads into the Bangsamoro without the knowledge and consent of the Lumads violates Section 22, Article II of the Constitution, which states that the "*State recognizes and* **promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities** within the framework of national unity and development." The incorporation also violates Section 5, Article XII of the Constitution which states that the "*State, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and national development policies and programs,* **shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural minorities to their ancestral lands** *to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being.*"

4. **With the incorporation of the Lumads' ancestral domain into the Bangsamoro ancestral domain, paragraph 2 on Concepts and Principles of the MOA-AD defines this ancestral domain of the Bangsamoro as follows:**

> x x x Ancestral domain and ancestral land refer to those under claims of ownership, occupied or possessed, by themselves or through the ancestors of the Bangsamoro people, communally or individually since time immemorial continuously to the present, except when prevented by war, civil disturbance, force majeure, or other forms of possible compulsion or displacement by force, deceit, stealth, or as a consequence of government project or any other voluntary dealings entered into by the government and private individuals, corporate entities or institutions.

This definition refers to the Bangsamoro ancestral domain as the lands that the Moros and the Lumads possessed continuously since time immemorial up to the present. This quoted from the Spanish conquest up to the present is excluded in asserting the uninterrupted possession of the lands by the Moros and Lumads. Even the "voluntary dealings entered into by the government and private individuals, corporate entities or institutions," such as state patents, free patents and homesteads, are excluded in asserting possession. Thus, under the MOA-AD the Bangsamoro are deemed to have possessed continuously the entire Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan since time immemorial up to the present without any interruption.

The MOA-AD defines ancestral domain as the ancestral lands and the natural resources found in the lands. Paragraph 3 on Concepts and Principles of the MOA-AD states:

> Both Parties acknowledge that ancestral domain does not form part of the public domain but encompasses ancestral, communal, and customary lands, inheritance, liberated and reformed domains as well as all natural resources therein that have material or created ancestral rights on the basis of native title.

The MOA-AD states the Bangsamoro ancestral domain "*does not form part of the public domain,*" abrogating the Regalian doctrine in the 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions and thus depriving the State of any claim to such natural resources. Even titled lands that are privately owned are part of the Bangsamoro ancestral domain with respect to the natural resources found in such privately owned titled lands.

The MOA-AD then declares that the Bangsamoros own their ancestral domain, and consequently all the natural resources found in their ancestral domain. Paragraph 2 on Concepts and Principles of the MOA-AD states:

> It is essential to lay the foundation of the Bangsamoro homeland in order to address the Bangsamoro people's humanitarian and economic needs as well as their political aspirations. Such territorial jurisdictions and geographic areas being the natural wealth and patrimony upon which the social, cultural and political identity and pride of all the Bangsamoro people. **Ownership of the homeland is vested exclusively in them by virtue of their prior rights of occupation** that had inhered in them as ceaseless bodies of people, delineated by their ancestors since time immemorial, and having the first politically organized dominion occupants.

The BJE has jurisdiction to fully utilize and exploit the ancestral domain, both to its the land and all the natural resources found in the land. Paragraphs 7(b.) and (c.) on Resources of the MOA-AD state:

> The Bangsamoro People through their appropriate juridical entity shall, among others, exercise power or authority over the natural resources within its territorial jurisdiction.
>
> x. To explore, **exploit, use or utilize and develop their ancestral domain and ancestral lands within their territorial jurisdiction, inclusive of their right of occupation, possession, conservation, and exploitation of all natural resources found therein;**
>
> x x x
>
> z. **To utilize, develop, and exploit it's natural resources found in their ancestral domain** or may enter into a joint development, utilization, and exploitation of natural resources, specifically ore strategic minerals, designed on consensus or shared resources, which is final up to the final setting of appropriate institution.

This violates Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution which declares that **"all lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, x x x and other natural resources belong to the State."** The same provision also provides states that the **"exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under full control and supervision of the State."**

5. **The MOA-AD balkanizes the entire Mindanao and leaves a continuing tension between Muslims and non-Muslims that can only lead to a lasting war. The MOA-AD allows the BJE to establish bornongays within their ancestral domain even if the area is outside the ARMM or even outside the expanded ARMM. In short, the BJE can set up bornongays in non-ARMM provinces, cities or municipalities throughout Mindanao. Paragraph 4 on Territory of the MOA-AD provides:**

> All territorial and geographic areas in Mindanao and its adjacent islands including Palawan and Sulu archipelago that have been occupied, and/or inhabited by **ancestral domains and ancestral land of the Bangsamoro people** as their geographic areas, inclusive of settlements and reservations, may be formed as constituent units, political subdivisions of the Bangsamoro territorial jurisdictions subject to the principles of equality of peoples, and mutual respect and to the protection of civil, political, economic, and cultural rights in their respective jurisdictions.

Thus, in the present ancestral domains of the Lumads in provinces and cities outside of the ARMM, the BJE can set up bornongays where the BJE can claim its "own" police and internal security force. **This will allow the MILF to station its armed fighters in almost every province and city in the entire Mindanao.** This is the recipe for a lasting war in Mindanao. Whenever a the Executive branch agreed to this provision in the MOA-AD hallucinating Mindanao should have his or her head examined.

Under Section 5, Article VII of the Constitution, the President has taken a solemn oath of office to **"preserve and defend the Constitution."** Under Section 4, Article II of the Constitution, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the **"protector of the people and the State"** and is mandated **"to secure the sovereignty of the State and integrity of the national territory."**

The President must honor her solemn oath of office.
The Armed Forces of the Philippines, from the Chief of Staff down to the foot soldiers, must honor their sacred duty to preserve the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

Text submitted by Frank Drilon

Across the NATION

GMA allies back unseat Panlilio bid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S eldest son tried to keep a distance from a campaign to unseat Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio but some of her closest allies in the province threw their support for the move that could install Lilia "Baby" Pineda, one of Ms Arroyo's closest friends, as governor.

Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Ms Arroyo's eldest son, refused to conspicuously declare his stand on a recall petition against Panlilio, a Catholic priest who ran for office on the prodding of concerned Kapampanguenos calling for reforms in the province.

But Rene Romero, who led the recall petition, said his group expects Mikey Arroyo to support the campaign against Panlilio.

Romero is president of the **previously unheard of** Kaugnay at Kaisahan Ning Mamalayin Pampanga Inc. (Kasimpi) which launched the recall campaign on Thursday.

While Mikey said he will comment on the campaign only if it reaches the Commission on Elections, he didn't hide ignorance of the charges that were being hurled against Panlilio, who received the President's ire after he could not suppress reports of hundreds of thousands of pesos in possible bribes changed hands in Malacañang as a meeting with local officials.

"The best way for the government to stop that is by delivering basic social services and reaching out to the disgruntled camps," Mikey said in a telephone interview.

"I humbly support to Governor Panlilio that he should not worry about this. It is going to be a long tedious process," he said. "Governor Panlilio should look at this as an avenue to renew his mandate and covenant with the people of Pampanga. If it does not progress, that means people still like him."

Romero's group accused Panlilio of failing to deliver basic services, among other charges.

100,000 signatures in a week

At least 140,000 signatures are needed for the recall that would go through a process of validation.

Candidus Mayor Jerry Pelayo, spokesperson of the Pampanga Mayors League and a loyal ally of Ms Arroyo, said the PML would help Kasimpi gather the signatures.

"We see [go the signatures] in a week's time," he said.

City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez said he was saddened by the recall and would not support it.

Panlilio, he said, was the President's "saving grace" because he "gave the President's home province a good leader."

Panlilio's supporters yesterday started their "Reject Recall" campaign in a bid to counter the recall petition.

"We routinely see education campaign in the villages. It's a continuation of our efforts to inform our fellow Kapampangans about the gains of the good governance crusade through Among (Father) Ed," Fr. Ann Mari Sandico, Kasimpi Inc. chair, said.

The real target

The Kapampangan Coalition Inc. (KCI) said it was rejecting the recall petition.

"There is no solid ground for the recall. This will be a futile exercise, loss of time, money and dissipation of energies," said KCI point Dominico Lumicao, KCI president.

While the KCI wants before Panlilio, Lumicao said it would continue to demand the removal of provincial administrator Virlan Dabu.

"The so-called loss of confidence that Kasimpi has is resulting in due to the resignation of most of the internal team of Among Ed and the demand of KCI and Bahal Boys (quarry workers) for the removal of Dabu," he said.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guino said he said the 12 provincial board members will make their stand known after a meeting with Kasimpi leaders next week.

Panlilio's legal counsel, Reynaldo Blandaflor, snubbed at Kasimpi's drive.

"Look who's talking about graft and corruption," said Blandaflor in a phone interview.

"Panlilio's political detractors remind me of the story of the adulterous woman where the Pharisees asked Jesus to be stoned to death," he said.

"Can any of Panlilio's detractors cast the first stone? I doubt it."

The woman case cited by Lilia Pineda at the Supreme Court is a "prejudicial issue to a recall."

The Comelec, he said, has "no funds" for a recall effort.

"What they should recall were the days when there were no collections from quarrying," said Blandaflor.

He was referring to the P246 million collected by the Panlilio administration from June 2007 to mid-August 2008. Under former governor Mark Lapid, the capitol collected only P28.1 million in 2006. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

CONTROL of millions of pesos from quarrying, in the form of fees collected from trucks like these hauling sand from Pampanga's richer areas, is seen as one of the reasons Panlilio's detractors want him out. INQUIRER PHOTO

REFUGEES
Children are left to watch over their family's belongings as their parents search for a place to stay in Iligan City after fleeing clashes between government soldiers and Moro guerrillas in several Lanao del Norte villages.

New CARP bill seeks to hike compensation for landowners

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A NEW BILL seeking a five-year extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was proposed by a Lanaonon bar congressman.

Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson (Neg. Occ., 3rd district) on Tuesday said the bill, proposed by Rep. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur 2nd district, would raise the compensation for land acquired from landowners and would allow the use of CARP funds as collateral for loans from banks.

Lacson said the bill also specified the land reform beneficiaries who would be covered.

Palatable

While he did not favor CARP, Lacson said the Villafuerte version would be more palatable.

In the first regular session of the 14th Congress, Lacson was the only congressman who voted against the resolutions that signalled CARP's resurrection after it lapsed Dec. 31 of this year.

Villafuerte has yet to fill his bill but this might be used as a point of reference for a new bill that would likely get the support of majority of the congressmen, he said.

Villafuerte's bill proposed that the CARP be extended until Dec. 31, 2013.

Changes

The bill also stated that during the extended period, propertied who be covered would include private agricultural lands that landowners had voluntarily offered to sell or those under compulsory acquisition, as of Dec. 31, 2008.

The bill also sought the identification of not less than 1 million hectares, from private agricultural lands and those owned by the national government, of additional lands devoted to rice production that could not be converted to other uses.

The bill also proposed that corporate farming systems be encouraged and introduced on land of public domain.

Lacson said the bill also proposed a funding of P1.85 billion for the program extension.

Power company stops building hydroelectric plant in Davao

DAVAO CITY—ABOITIZ POWER Corp. has decided to halt the construction of its hydropower plant in Bagacay and Sibulan, Davao Sur, which the local water utility company has been vigorously opposing.

Sir Gregorio Jaboneta, vice president for operations of the Hedcor Bansalan Inc., Aboitiz Power's subsidiary in charge of the project, said the decision was brought about by delays in the completion of the proposed water permit and environmental compliance certificate.

Jaboneta said Aboitiz Power already informed the Philippine Stock Exchange about the decision to stop the Bansalan project on Aug. 14.

No permit, no project

The project is part of the company's 54.8-megawatt Tamugan Hydropower Project.

"Without the water permit, the project cannot be negotiated," he said.

Jaboneta said they were also not pushing through with two other projects in the area.

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), which has been opposing the projects, did not issue immediate comment.

But in the past, DCWD already voiced its opposition against the hydropower plants, saying it will dry up the city's water supply.

DCWD said as early as 1998, the city was already tagged as one of the water-critical areas in the Philippines where water is consumed hesitatively.

Water critical

DCWD said the Hedcor project will worsen the situation.

The study was conducted by the Nippon Koei Co. Ltd and Nippon Jogesuido Sekkei Co. Ltd.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also confirmed the report, saying the city's water supply is critical.

Councilor Leo Avila, chair of the committee on environment, has sided with the DCWD.

"Between power and water, my choice would obviously be water," Avila said. Jude Acosta, Jeffrey Tupas and Orlando Dimaano, Inquirer Mindanao

Baguio gets offers to build sanitary landfills

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY government has received joint venture offers from neighboring Benguet towns to develop shared sanitary landfills in a bid to end Baguio's garbage crisis, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said on Thursday.

He said Itogon and Tuba towns need capital to fix their own garbage problems, owing to the troubles Baguio is experiencing for about three weeks due to uncollected garbage.

Baguio's mounted residents that the city government has found long-term solutions to the garbage crisis.

Since July 14, garbage collection was suspended when residents from Tuba and Itogonga Trench barricaded the city's dump, where government had even leased to dump trash despite closing most parts of it to comply with environmental laws.

They justified their action as a means to end Baguio's exercise of violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003), which banned open dumps in 2003.

Many of these protesters live below the dump and are exposed to landslides filled with garbage.

Waste increase

The volume of daily waste in Baguio has increased from 80 tons to over 100 tons due to the completion of more and a bigger migrant population, according to data compiled by the city's environment office.

> "The volume of daily waste in Baguio has increased from 80 tons to over 100 tons..."

Bautista said this is evidenced by the 500 tons of trash hauled to Capas, Tarlac, in only a week from July 14.

Because of a zero-waste program, the city had removed trash bins around the downtown area so trash bags had piled up along sidewalks and around parks.

The sight turned away tourists, local officials said.

Bautista earlier said the city received 15 offers from other local governments to build shared landfills.

He said the city government responded by asking for evidence that the offers come with their respective community endorsements accepting the proposed sanitary landfill in their areas.

Controversy

"We need to have a hard time convincing our neighbors to have the landfill, but ever since the crisis [fell], they have responded well to Lost' engagement," Garbage management is a shared responsibility," Bautista said.

The crisis has also sparked controversy.

Former Mayor Bernardo Vergara, former general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, said Bautista hired contractors without the supervision of government auditors and might have signed one.

Former Mayor Benito Ramos, who supported the barricades, wrote Bautista on July 26 to block "the privatization of Baguio's garbage collection service."

Teodia Fores dee Alonzo Waste Management Corp. have been hauling trash to the city since July 17.

Bautista said government engineers are building a new sanitary landmark well around the old dumpsite present further slides.

This would enable the city to again use 30 percent of the facility or about 1.5 hectares, to store garbage before these are hauled to Tarlac six months later. With a report from Donna Domallo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

LGU help key to nutrition campaign

By Vicente Labro
Tacloban, Leyte

FIVE-YEAR-OLD JESSY (not her real name) held her father tightly during a medical mission conducted recently in one of the towns of Leyte. Her emaciated frame had already caught the attention of people around her.

Jessy is just one face among the many children suffering from severe malnutrition in Eastern Visayas. They do not get enough food or nutrients needed for proper health and development. They are slow learners and have poor resistance to infections that lead to frequent illness or even death.

In 2007, malnutrition in the region was most prevalent in Northern Samar (28.69 percent), the seventh among the country's poorest provinces. Eastern Samar ranked second at 27.81 percent, followed by Biliran (21.33 percent), Leyte (19.06 percent), Eastern Samar (17.81 percent) and Southern Leyte (8.61 percent).

According to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), Eastern Visayas is one of the regions with "very high" malnutrition. One-third of the children under 10 years old were either underweight or short for their age, it said.

In its 2005 survey, the FNRI said 32.1 percent of the preschoolers and 32.2 percent of schoolchildren in the region were underweight for their age. The figures were much higher than the national figures of 24.6 percent and 22.8 percent, respectively.

The situation was further aggravated by the ongoing food and flood crises.

Uphill fight

Nutrition officials in the region, however, are not losing hope in their uphill fight against malnutrition. "What we need to reach out to is support are the local government units," says Carina Santiago, regional coordinator of the National Nutrition Council (NNC).

Santiago says local officials can be of great help in curbing the high malnutrition incidence because they have the authority

A HOMELESS child falls asleep on a sidewalk in Cebu City as people pass by, avoiding what has become failure in many urban areas in the

to implement the nutrition programs in their respective towns, not only the national government," the NNC official says.

In the town of Palo in Leyte, Dr. Clara Rose Zabala-Roy, municipal nutrition action officer, says she has no problem with the local officials. In fact, she adds, the municipal government has provided the municipal nutrition committee with an annual budget of P200,000.

Parents' role

What is also very important, she stresses, is the support of the parents of malnourished children. They must not only help in the feeding program but also observe proper hygiene and sanitation, practice breastfeeding and involve themselves in backyard gardening for increasing household consumption of more highly nutritious foods, she says.

What usually happens, she laments, is that the parents, particularly in the rural areas, are only good at the start of a feeding program. Later, they would not anymore show up in the food preparation and feeding activity.

"Sometimes, they have more time chatting or drinking with their neighbors," Roy says.

She also notices that many lands in the villages are left idle instead of being planted with vegetables, fruit trees and other food crops.

Roy says her office conducts supplemental feeding for 20 to 60 days, educates mothers to improve their feeding practices for their children, and advises parents to plant vegetables and malunggay [moringa oleifera lam.].

She, however, admits that the municipal government cannot handle cases of severely malnourished children, which takes around a year to recover.

In cases of severe malnutrition, she refers the patient to the municipal social welfare and development office, which, in turn, refers the case to the Missionary of Charity based in Tacloban City, 11 kilometers from Palo.

The town now has cure of the severely and they are fully recovered, Roy says.

"It's our responsibility to tell them that it is their responsibility to implement the nutrition program in their respective towns, not only the national government," the NNC official says.

In the town of Palo in Leyte, Dr. Clara Rose Zabala-Roy, municipal nutrition action officer, says she has no problem with the local officials. In fact, she adds, the municipal government has provided the municipal nutrition committee with an annual budget of P200,000.

Parents' role

What is also very important, she stresses, is the support of the parents of malnourished children. They must not only help in the feeding program but also observe proper hygiene and sanitation, practice breastfeeding and involve themselves in backyard gardening for increasing household consumption of more highly nutritious foods, she says.

What usually happens, she laments, is that the parents, particularly in the rural areas, are only good at the start of a feeding program. Later, they would not anymore show up in the food preparation and feeding activity.

"Sometimes, they have more time chatting or drinking with their neighbors," Roy says.

She also notices that many lands in the villages are left idle instead of being planted with vegetables, fruit trees and other food crops.

Roy says her office conducts supplemental feeding for 20 to 60 days, educates mothers to improve their feeding practices for their children, and advises parents to plant vegetables and malunggay [moringa oleifera lam.].

She, however, admits that the municipal government cannot handle cases of severely malnourished children, which takes around a year to recover.

In cases of severe malnutrition, she refers the patient to the municipal social welfare and development office, which, in turn, refers the case to the Missionary of Charity based in Tacloban City, 11 kilometers from Palo.

The town now has cure of the severely and they are fully recovered, Roy says.

UNPHOFUL of the sun's heat, a boy prepares to run during a supplemental feeding program of the Leyte provincial government.

Trip to Samar tourist destination to cease being 'boring'

By Vicente S. Labro
Basey, Samar

FOR SEVERAL YEARS now, tourists going to the No. 1 tourist destination in Eastern Visayas, the 840-hectare Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park in Basey, Samar, have to take a "boring" two-hour trip to the park.

But this "connecting" trip to the nature park would soon be a thing of the past after about 30 residents of Barangay Inuntan, an upriver village 18 kilometers from the Basey town proper, banded together to provide services to tourists as a form of livelihood.

Members of the Sohoton Services Association (SSA), a non-profit organization, would be providing roving guide boats, food catering and other tourism-related services such as selling up souvenir shops and rest houses.

In late July, the group received from the Department of Tourism a donation of six kayaks with paddles, life vests, outboard, hard hats, head lamps, flashlights and medical kits.

These gears would be used by

HOUSES on stilts line up the bank of the Quinabasan River in one of the villages of Basey, Samar.

guides and tourists in going to the Sohoton natural park, which was established in 1935 and is being managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The park boasts of an extensive cave system with unique rock formations.

Tour guides in uniform

During the "dry run" last July 24 shortly after the turnover ceremony, tourists and members

paddle ride, together with some visitors, went to Sohoton park, before eating kapeka in the river mouth of over a kilometer.

Sibarang has seen over guide uniform with hard hat, head light, flashlight and rubber boots, Richard Alibudo, the president of SSA, led in the start of the Sohoton tours.

Alibudo, in his mid-20s, first narrated the history of the place—which was inhabited as far back as the Stone Ages and had been a burial place of early people, a source for local medicines and a hideout of local revolutionaries.

And as they walked on, he pointed to rock formations of different shapes and sizes while he told the tourists the names of each type of cave rock including bato lang (a tablet or form the rocks).

"What they needed be doing is not only to bring in tourists to Sohoton but to also explain to them what is inside the cave," said director Rolando Cabical of the Office of Tourism Development Planning, DOT central office.

Boat ride

Almost P800,000 has been earmarked for the project, dubbed as Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Project (Ecotourism Product Development Livelihood Creation Project), according to Cabical.

He added that the municipal government of Basey's counterpart was in the form of accommodation, food and the training venue.

According to Cabical, they would also try to make the long hour ride from Basey town proper more enjoyable to tourists by providing guides who would give information on places they would pass by.

The scenery along the way is lucrative and this is what tourists want to see, he said.

In fact, he added, another group was also formed to take care of the area from Basey to Inuntan—the Basey Tourism Services Association.

Evelyn Pedana, chief of the DOST tourism office's Regional Development Planning Division, said they started the training of SSA members with a consultative workshop last year.

This was followed this year by training on business planning, tourism management, cave guiding, kayaking, orientation, marketing and first aid, he added.

Enjoyable experience

"We want to make them professional tourism services providers," Raimon said.

He disclosed that the project would be launched during the summer season next year, with Tourism Secretary Ace Durano in attendance.

They would first link the service providers with local tour and travel operators to ensure that many tourists would visit Basey, he explained.

Mayor Encarnacion said the municipal government would soon be also providing a visitors' lounge and a souvenir center in Inuntan.

DOT Regional Director Ruben Rene Tupaya said that with this new setup tourists would have an enjoyable experience at the Sohoton nature park, the No. 1 tourist destination in Eastern Visayas.

Basey is about 28 km. from Tacloban City and could be reached after a 45-minute land travel. In Basey town, tourists can seek assistance from the municipal tourism information office.

Childhood chum recalls Ninoy's talkativeness

84-yr-old says Aquino listless, had 'great appeal'

By Russell Arador
Inquirer Central Luzon

CONCEPCION, TARLAC—Living for 84 years a block away from the ancestral house of the Aquino family in Barangay San Jose here, Bernardino Pastrol said he had seen Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. grow up from a playful 7-year-old boy to a charismatic politician who had a way with people.

As a frequent visitor to the Aquino house, Pastrol said he would often watch Ninoy frolic in the garden and run around the house. Pastrol's family was close to the Aquinos as his grandfather, Balmacio Pastrol, used to work as an overseer of the Aquinos' farmlands.

Pastrol was 15 then and Ninoy was 7, so he would sometimes watch over him.

"Ninoy was really playful, he's feckless, so people watching over him would complain," he said.

Even as a boy, Ninoy who loved to eat "dang na bao" (dried catfish), really talked a great deal, he said.

Talkative

Ninoy never learned to outgrow his talkativeness, he said, and as mayor of Concepcion (he was elected to 1955) he ruined the morale of "Sanma," (grey) because of that.

"When he started talking there was no stopping him," Pastrol said.

Mouse mouth or not, however, Ninoy was undeniably charismatic.

"He really had great appeal to people," Pastrol said.

"Can you imagine Ninoy hearing a veteran politician," he said, referring to the then 23-year-old Ninoy's 1955 election bid to be a member of the Concepcion Municipal Board.

Pastrol said Ninoy, during campaigns, had a habit of saying a silent prayer while facing a fixed on the swollen tummy of a congress mother.

Charisma test

It was supposed to give Ninoy good luck, but whether it actually did no longer mattered because local women loved him for that, he said.

To Pastrol, Ninoy's charisma was best illustrated when country icon "Doping" Constantino Jr. and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. faced off for a seat in the province's first congressional district.

Ninoy, then governor of Tarlac for the second from 1961 to 1967), supported Doping, elder brother of his wife, Cory, even "Cory" Cojuangco Aquino.

Pastrol said whatever Danding's political backers would visit the provincial capitol to see Ninoy, they would be told to support Doping instead.

Pastrol said Doping won because of Ninoy.

"Standing ties to Doping not because of Doping but because of Ninoy," he said.

It is said that this political showdown between the Cojuangco massive aggravated the rift between them. The tension would lead to a decades-long feud between the two factions of the Cojuangcos, climaxing in the 1983 assassination of Ninoy and ending only a few years back upon Danding's return from exile.

Necessary death

In 1980, Pastrol said he accompanied Doña Aurora Aquino, Ninoy's mother, in visiting Ninoy in his cell at Fort Bonifacio. There he realized how Ninoy was willing to die to bring down strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Quoting Ninoy, Pastrol said: "If I don't die, country, a brave anyone out there who can win against Marcos?"

Although they weren't cousins, Ninoy often called him "pinsan," Pastrol said.

"I felt that," he said.

But then he found himself to continue to listen to Ninoy, who answered his one question by trying to explain to them how the political opposition could use him to oust Marcos.

"To me, no one will win against Marcos if I don't die. My death will become the reason for his downfall," Pastrol said, quoting Ninoy.

Pastrol said Ninoy was more cool and sincere when he said those words than when Cory asked him if he believed him, he said, "No."

BEREAVED Pastrol in his home near the Aquino mansion.

THE AQUINO mansion in Barangay San Jose in Concepcion, Tarlac, where Pastrol played with Ninoy during their childhood days.

Complete list of 1,513 who passed board exams for doctors

A

ABAD, Alfred Teodoro Tomenilla
ABAD, Arabella Bernas
ABADIA, Al-Amir Mayuga
ABAD, Jacqueline Ann Ramos
ABAD, Jeanette Tiongson
ABAD, Rochelle Estrada
ABAGAT, Pepito Jr. Bautista
ABAN, Ryan Manuel Arabejo
ABANES, Alvin Hervis
ABAN, Jeffrey Lim
ABAN-ALCALDE, Jaime Manuel
ABANTE, Ryan Manuel Arabejo
ABANTO, Jose Antonio
ABANTO, Ma. Lourdes Obispo
ABAO, Bernadette Villa
ABAO, Jonathan Bautista
ABAO, Lourdes Duque
ABAOAG, Aaron Paolo Gonzalez
ABAOAG, Mario Paolo Gonzalez
ABAPAN, Phillip Dela Pena
ABCEDES, Mary Rose Dela
ABAS, Aimee Gallardo-Ledesma
ABCEDE, Mary Ann Cabrera
ABCEDE, Mary Rose Dela
ABCEDE, Rosemarie Ramos
ABCEDE, Rosemarie Ramos
ABCEDE, Rosemarie Ramos

NEWS

Gov't stands to gain P1B from farm deal

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT MAY SOON reap a $1-billion investment by two multinational companies in food production by rehabilitating several areas in Mindoro and Luzon as investment sites.

The Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp. (PADCC) said the government and the investors, San Miguel Corp. and the Kuok Group, are set to develop one million hectares of farmlands as investment sites.

SMC and the Kuok Group earlier pledged to develop government-identified farms at an investment ratio of $1,000 per hectare.

The government identified an initial 100,000 hectares of "priority 1" areas in Luzon and Mindoro, said PADCC president Mario Aglipay.

These initial areas for farm investments include Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay and Sarangani in Mindanao and Ilo. Province in Luzon, Aglipay said in a report to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

Aglipay said another one million hectares of farmland have been classified as "priority 2" areas for development in Isabela, Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental, Negros Oriental, Bukidnon, Davao Oriental, Sultan Kudarat and Sarigao del Sur.

Another 220,000 hectares have been classified as "priority 3" areas in Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, South and North Cotabato and Agusan del Norte, she added.

"From these areas (priority 2 and 3), San Miguel Corp. and the Kuok Group will conduct an evaluation and review of the suitability of each tracts of land for agricultural-related endeavors," Aglipay said in a statement.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the two companies would "develop only one million hectares," she added.

Aglipay is concurrent head of the National Convergence Initiative Secretariat of the Oil, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tasked with searching for farmlands that both firms could tap for agribusiness development.

Aglipay said the government would use the country's existing community-based forestry management (CBFM) areas and other areas identified by the DAR for the food production project.

In her July 28 State of the Nation address, President Macapagal-Arroyo had stressed the need for the country to achieve food self-sufficiency.

She had called on the DA to promote corporate farming and entice private and state-run companies to produce food for their own employees.

Under their memorandum of agreement, SMC and the Kuok Group would provide the financial and technical support and manage production of crops, such as grains and vegetables, Aglipay said.

Oil firms roll back fuel prices by P1

By Abigail L. Ho

LOWER INTERNATIONAL trade prices the past weeks have enabled local oil companies yesterday to cut the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1 a liter.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. implemented the price reduction at 2 p.m. yesterday, but only for gasoline and diesel. It also slashed the price of its aviation jet fuel, or liquefied petroleum gas used as transport fuel, by P1 a liter.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., Seaoil Philippines Inc., Total Philippines Inc. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. lowered their gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices at 12:01 a.m. today. Total (Philippines) Corp. lowered its prices at 6 a.m.

Unioil also reduced its aviation gas price by 50 centavos a liter at 12 a.m. last Thursday.

The price rollback was the fourth for gasoline for a total of P4.50 a liter and the third for diesel and kerosene for a total of P2.50 a liter this month alone.

But motorists may have to wait some time for the next fuel price cut, Eastern Petroleum chair and chief executive Bernardo Martinez said in an interview yesterday.

"I'm afraid this may be the last for a while. We have to pause and evaluate whether or not these rollbacks are sustainable," Martinez said.

"Last night there was a $3-a-barrel price spike. Further price movements will depend on (Mean of Platts Singapore) movement until the end of August," he said.

He said this did not mean the oil firms would start hiking prices again.

"After all, it's not nice to go back-to-back increase-made, rising off a series of rollbacks," he said.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude slid to an August average of $111.27 a barrel, from $130.27 a barrel in July.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products fell to $115.48 a barrel in the Aug. 1-22 period, from July's $130.27-a-barrel average.

MOPS-based diesel likewise dropped to an average price of $135.80 a barrel in the first 22 days of August, from the $160.61 average posted last month.

With the latest rollback, pump prices of premium unleaded gasoline now range between P65.45 and P67.26 a liter, diesel is at P52.20-P56 a liter, and kerosene at P56.60-P58.70 a liter.

OFWs keep RP food-secure, says US report

By Cynthia D. Baluna

HIGH REMITTANCES FROM overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) will continue to provide food security for the Philippines despite threats of rising global food and fuel prices, according to a US government report.

"Food security in the Philippines is projected to remain favorable, with food consumption of 20 percent of the population estimated to fall short of requirement targets from 2007-17," said the US Congressional Research Service in its latest report on Food Security in Developing Countries (2007-2017).

The report on probable food-induced food aid requirements in the next 10 years is meant to be a guide for the United States Congress.

The data were culled by the US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) and covered 70 developing countries.

According to the report, the Philippines had a moderate food inflation rate of 11 percent in 2004-06.

But, unlike other developing countries, the high cost of Philippine imports will constitute to be cushioned by the money sent home by OFWs, mostly to the Middle East.

"Higher food prices in 2007 and 2008 are not expected to significantly change the country's food security situation because high levels of money sent by Filipino workers in the Middle East to support their families back home are expected to support the growing cost of imports," it said.

The report said the overall aggregate food security indicators as limited by the ERS pointed to decline in food security over the next decade for the 70 countries.

Average per capita food consumption in these countries stagnated in 2007 and the number of people who consumed less than the nutritional requirement was estimated to be higher than in 2006.

Food and fuel price hikes, coupled with a slowdown in economic growth, are expected to hinder long-term food security progress.

High transportation costs within countries and continents, as well as severe ocean (air and ship freight), have intensified the financial burden on most countries by further increasing import costs, the report said.

The food security indicators for the 70 countries devoted an increase in the estimated number of food insecure people for 2007 relative to 2006 (982 million in 2007 compared with 849 million in 2006). In addition, the number of food insecure people is projected to increase to 1.2 billion by 2017.

"The food security indicators estimated for the study countries point a bleak picture of not only the current situation, but also the intensifying of the problem over the next decade, assuming no significant changes in trends in production and financial situation of countries," the report said.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Suspect in poll exec's death charged

Prosecutor says statements from witnesses justified filing of raps

By Allison W. Lopez

CHARGES OF MURDER WERE FILED AGAINST A policeman suspected to be involved in the killing of Commission on Elections (Comelec) legal department chair Alioden Dalaig.

PO1 Ismar Amperan, who was assigned at the Shariff Kabunsuan provincial police office, was charged in the Manila Regional Trial Court for the killing of Dalaig on Nov. 18, 2007.

Chief assistant city prosecutor Leo Llarenas ordered the indictment of Amperan for the shooting of the 64-year-old lawyer on 30 G. del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets in Ermita, based on "circumstantial evidence" presented by three witnesses.

Amperan, who was nabbed April 1st in Shariff Kabunsuan, failed to submit any evidence.

He escaped on June 7 from Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, where he was detained, and is still at large.

In a resolution, the prosecutor gave credence to the testimonies of parking attendant Domingo Lazarte, overseas Filipino worker Emily Sotelo and Dalaig's wife Filomena Gallemit.

Lazarte said he was about 20 feet away from the scene of the incident. After hearing a gunshot, he turned around and saw Dalaig clutching his bloodied chest.

He said the assassin put his gun inside a bag, talked briefly with another man and then walked towards Roxas Boulevard, said.

The eyewitness described the gunman as around 5'5" to 5'6", well-built, and wearing a black jacket and camouflage pants. He pointed to Amperan in a police lineup.

Sotelo claimed she met "Sean" and "Jerry" on Nov. 6 in Makati, and drank beer with them. When she borrowed Sean's cell phone, Sotelo said she read a text message saying "Pare, nasa Dalilan si Dalaig. Gusto ko tapos mabilis ha sana." ("Pare, Dalaig is in Dalilan. I want it done quickly.")

Sotelo also said she saw two guns when she went inside the suspects' room at the Stone-house Apartelle.

Five months later, after learning from a news program that Sean—who turned out to be Amperan—was the suspect in Dalaig's murder, she contacted authorities.

Dalaig's spouse Filomena, on the other hand, said on Nov 9 she noticed two men in their neighborhood.

The armed men stood beside a motorcycle armed and were looking at their house, she said.

After seeing the younger man, later identified as Amperan, showing text messages on his cellular companion, Filomena called the attention of Dalaig, who alerted the police.

After police arrived, the older suspect, later identified as Julito Ebes alias "Ewing," fled.

Amperan denied that was overheard telling somebody on his cell phone: "Patatayin mo si Dalaig."

Llarenas said that based on the witnesses' accounts, the circumstances of treachery and evident premeditation were sufficient to make the crime murder.

The prosecutor said premeditation was apparent from the testimonies of Antonio and Gallemit who said the suspects were conducting surveillance operations on the victim.

LECHON PARADE A colorful parade of lechon pigs Dressed three months or a culinary arts fair held yesterday on Gateway Mall, in Araneta Center in Quezon City. AMIR ABACAN

'Maid' in robbery-'poisoning' nabbed

By Tina G. Santos

A "HOUSEMAID" LONG WANTed for a series of robbery in Manila was finally arrested yesterday by Manila policemen.

Amanie Liwanda, 30, a native of Cebu, was arrested by members of the Manila Police District Station 11 (Binondo) at her rented apartment on Bulkot Street, Barangay Abrenian Village, Project 7, Quezon City.

Supt. Nelson Yabut, MPDC station commander, said robbery and qualified theft charges would be filed against the suspect.

He said the suspect could also face attempted murder charges because some of her alleged victims were in critical condition after eating the food she apparently laced with harmful substances.

Yabut said Liwanda was arrested following a tip from people who saw on television an artist's sketch and photo of the suspect caught by a closed circuit television (CCTV) camera in a building owned by one of her victims.

The suspect, who used different aliases, reportedly admitted to police she was a member of a syndicate. Liwanda pointed to Nita Matudlat, who was also arrested during the operation, as the leader of the syndicate.

Police said they found the suspect's belongings all packed up when they arrested her.

The modus operandi was to have Liwanda apply as housemaid. Once hired, she would feed household members with food laced with poisonous substances, then rob her employers of cash and valuables.

The suspect hobnobbed secretly guards and asked them to recommend her as people looking for a housemaid.

Liwanda and Matudlat told the house she took, particularly the jewelry "I only got 10 percent of the loot," she told police, adding they usually put their potential victims under surveillance first.

Liwanda said she used a white powder to poison her victims, saying it "only runs their food and drinks."

Yabut said the suspect had victimized several Chinese-Filipino families in the Binondo and Sta. Cruz area.

At the police station, the suspect was met by her two victims, Alex Pua, of Binondo, said his children were confined in January at the intensive care unit of a hospital after eating adobo the suspect had prepared.

MetroBriefs

Hotel manager nabbed for sexual harassment

A HOTEL manager was arrested and charged with sexual harassment after allegedly molesting a married female employee while she was doing accountancy in a hotel in Manila. Cresente Santillan, 54, resident manager at Hotel Indah on 4, Villegas Street, Ermita, was nabbed Thursday by the District Special Project Unit of the Manila City Hall after a complaint was filed against him by a 28-year-old subordinate. Senior Insp. Marcelo Reyes of the DSPU said that around 10:45 a.m. of Aug 21, the victim was conducting an inventory of items on the hotel's eighth floor when the suspect suddenly hugged her, kissed her neck and touched her breasts. She said he continued his sexual advances despite her efforts to avoid him off until they heard a noise, prompting Santillan to leave. The woman said the suspect kept apologizing later and asked her to keep quiet but she decided to seek the help of police. The complainant added that Santillan, in the past, had embraced and touched her whenever she made him coffee, but the most recent incident took place "coming to the point that he (Santillan) was (his) girl" with violating R.A. 7877 or the anti-sexual harassment act and Art. 336 of the Revised Penal Code (acts of lasciviousness) in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office. Allison W. Lopez

Traffic rerouted Sunday in Mandaluyong loop

MOTORISTS are advised to avoid Maysilo Circle and San Francisco Streets in Mandaluyong City from 6 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. The area is the venue for the city's annual bicycle ride sponsored by the Mandaluyong Cycling Federation, and will be closed to traffic on that day. The activity is part of the week-long celebration of Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II's birth anniversary. Other activities include breaking ground for two projects in Addition Hills, Wards 12 and 38. Donated Cory to on Monday and a local overseas contract set for the public employment service office at the city gymnasium on Tuesday. To start at 8 a.m., until the afternoon, it will offer hundreds of job vacancies here and abroad to qualified constituents. A new outpost pet link substation will be inaugurated in Block 29-42 of Addition Hills, apart from the new four-story Highway Hills Integrated School secondary building. On Aug. 27, daycare pupils from the city's 24 daycare centers will get together for a day of fun and games at the city gymnasium. On Aug. 28, social infrastructure projects in three different barangays will finally start. On barangay 34th anniversary (Aug. 29), the day will start with a motorcycle at the Bahay ng Hiyas Building at 5 a.m. It will be followed at 8 a.m. by the holding of a boat race where Barangay will share a breakfast of tuguic (rice porridge) with his constituents. A concert and bingo project have also been scheduled during the week.

Mauling victim briefly loses memory

By DJ Yap

A HUMILIATING LOST HER memory temporarily after he was assaulted midnight Tuesday by a group of men in the lobby of Dasfi Hotel in Makati City.

The reason for the resulting amnesia is mystery.

The victim, Hyram Paz, of Bel-Aires Subdivision, Quezon City, was taken to the Makati Medical Center for injuries sustained during the beating.

The police said they had not identified the three or more suspects, though initial tool accounts by hotel reports said they could be bodyguards of Presidential lawn-bowling Group chief Business "Herbal" Miles.

Supt. Manuel Santos Jr., chief of the Makati police criminal investigation division, said there was "no evidence confirming that information."

Paz's son Brian, who filed a complaint with the Makati police, said doctors told him his father had temporary amnesia as a result of his injuries.

Initial reports said hotel security guards saw the suspects kicking and punching Paz and walked to stop them.

Brian told investigators he went to the hotel and was told by the manager, Inge Ludovico, that guards saw Paz "lying on the floor after hearing loud shouts."

One of two security guards who saw the incident reportedly identified the suspects as bodyguards of Villar, but Santos could not confirm the information.

Miles's chief-of-staff Jeff Benavente could not say if Villar was billeted at the hotel that day. He said his boss had the holiday last week.

Santos said the hotel's owner is in manager, Fernando Revillas, promised to give police copies of closed circuit television footage of the incident to help them identify the assailants.

24-hour bike endurance race in Muntinlupa

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE 24-HOUR MOUNTAIN Bike Endurance Race will be held today at the sprawling grounds of the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

The event is jointly sponsored by the city government, the Department of Tourism and the Bureau of Corrections.

Bikers from the city and other points are expected to join the race designed to promote "adventure tourism," at the five-hectare New Bilibid Prison reservation that houses detention facilities apart from seven sports.

Glenn Ricanor, head of the city's tourism office, said that by organizing activities like adventure sports, they would also be able to promote the country's tourist attractions.

The DOT is financing prizes and trophies for the event.

The race will begin at noon and end at around the same time tomorrow. Registration is ongoing, and participants are advised to use their own mountain bikes.

Ricanor said bikers and guests alike would see landmarks like the Memorial Hill, where some of the NBP detention were buried; and the Japanese Canyon that gained fame during World War II.

Other sites are Amihowa Lake, the smallest natural lake in the country, and the Director's Quarters, described as a smaller version of the Mansion House in Baguio City.

"Bikers can take a short rest if they want, although their competitors might get ahead of them if their stops are frequent," Ricanor said.

A camping area will be designated beside the reservation where participants' families can wait for the race to finish.

Ricanor said bikers could choose from three categories: solo, where men would be separated from women, mixed, where men would partner with women bikers; and team-spanning five to eight bikers per group.

The race will cover a 5.5-kilometer loop consisting of single and double tracks. The bikers would have to go around the loop as many times as possible until the end of the race. The one who completes the most number of laps wins.

Race director Teodoro Benigno said the adventure race would allow a biker to define his/her limits of endurance, but still test his/her comfort zone.

The race would also promote camaraderie, sportsmanship, team work, apart from being a fun activity, he added.

Last year, some 250 bikers from Metro Manila, Baguio, Batangas, Laguna and the Visayas participated in the event. Benigno said there were also bikers from China and Australia.

A cock-and-bull story unfair to GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A TEXT MESSAGE CIRCULATING throughout country is very much unfair to President Gloria and her husband.

I'm sure it's not true. I'm sure her political enemies just made it up.

Here's the text message:

"Hi! Have you heard of BIDCOP Bataan Heavy Economic Development Council? It was funded by the OEC (Organization of Islamic Countries) with a whopping 3 billion dollars 2 create a separate government 4 mors pipol. 40% of do amount were 2 GMA many years ago that PGMN (Arat Gmohmmar Abbe Anwar). Sa wonder da amount of dollars dem surfaced. Nd were sold by GMA 2 more pipol many years ago."

I received the same text message three times in different days.

I repeat: The story is cock-and-bull.

Despite all her alleged faults, I'm sure GMA will never sell the country down the drain.

* * *

I consulted a good friend and confidante, whom I will not identify for obvious reasons, about the impact of the text message in Davao who have received it.

He said that even if it's not true, most people will believe everything said about GMA because of her unpopularity.

According to my friend, the text carried an element of "believability" because people were reminded when the surrendering of agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was clarified.

Recipients of the text message would have this in mind: "Why was the agreement, which would affect a big number of people, wrapped in a veil of secrecy?

Given the MILF's scandal and other irregularities that allegedly involved Mike Arroyo, can you blame the recipients of the text messages for believing the story?

* * *

The news of Army Brig. Gen. Antonio Sopsop, walking out of a meeting presided over by Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro in Tigaro City?

Sopsop, head of the 104th Infantry Brigade, showed displeasure over economists aired by Rep. Vicente Belmonte that his men were inefficient in fighting the Moro rebels.

Sopsop could not handle pressure from Belmonte who was browbeating him.

If the soldier can't stand pressure at a conference table, how can you expect him to handle pressures in the battlefield?

This guy is not a leader. He should be assigned to a clerical job.

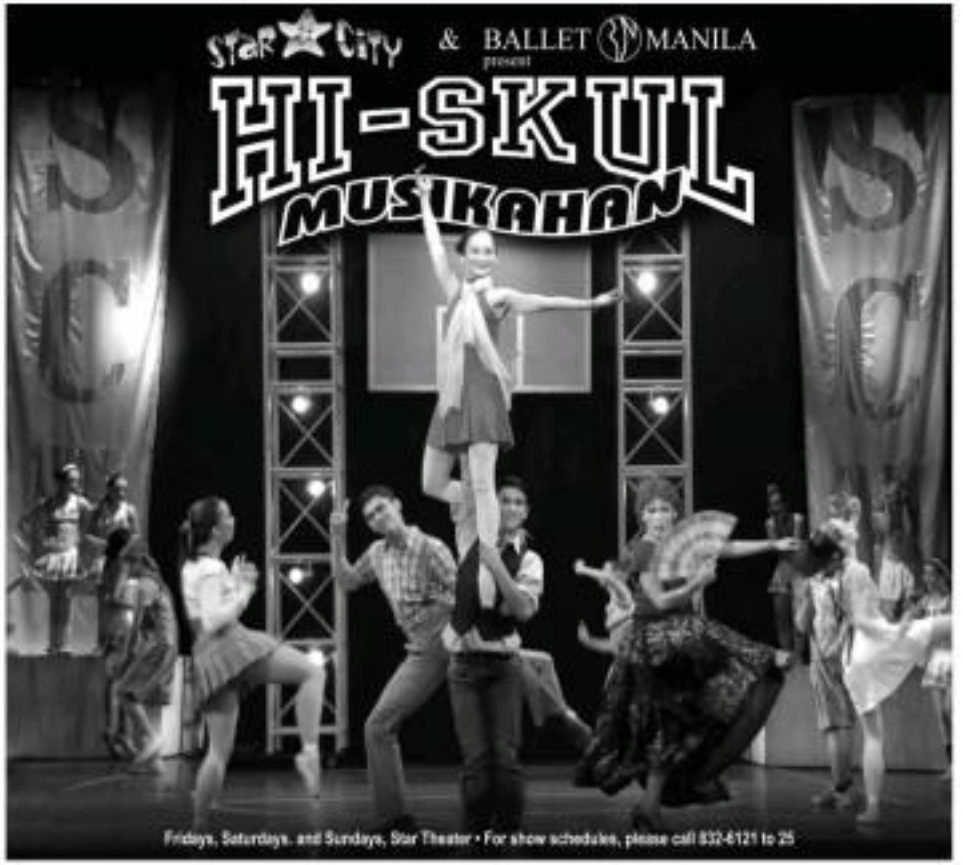
* * *

One of the undersecretaries at the Department of Transportation and Communications allegedly wore a Rolex gold watch, and wears it proudly.

If that's not conspicuous display of wealth, I don't know what is.

ASEAN QUEST DONATION

The Asean Foundation based in Jakarta, Indonesia, represented by Dr. Hassan R. Wirajuda Jr. Executive Director and hosted by Department of Science and Technology Secretary, donates a set of interactive computer video games called Asean Quest to the Vitar Foundation, represented by its chair, Rep. Cynthia Vitar for use in high schools in Las Piñas City. Asean Quest is a challenging and entertaining video game developed by the Asean Foundation that provides information about Asean while the player explores mini games and mini quests.



Obama hints at VP, but won't divulge choice

WASHINGTON – DEMOCRAT Barack Obama offered tantalizing hints about his vice presidential pick, describing the nominee as independent, ready to be president and strong on the economy even as he refused to disclose the name, he dropped new criticism of Republican rival John McCain in a push to blunt attacks that have narrowed his lead in the polls.

Obama headed the Republican as rich, out-of-touch with voters and tacking inflated foreign policy credentials as the race to the Nov. 4 elections moved increasingly easy.

Obama is scheduled to appear next with his vice presidential nominee on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in Springfield, Illinois, his home state and the city where he launched his candidacy nearly two years before at the start of the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

While he has remained tight-lipped about his selection, the field of candidates appears to have been narrowed down to two: Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, and Joe Biden—the longest-serving Democratic foreign policy expert. An announcement is expected to be made in a text message to supporters sometime before the Saturday event.

"I've made the selection, that's all you're gonna get," Obama told reporters while campaigning in Virginia on Thursday.

He told the USA Today newspaper, however, that he went with someone who was independent and would challenge him in the White House. He also said his running mate "absolutely was prepared to be president and would help him strengthen the economy. But he declined to say whether he had informed his pick yet and said he would not reveal anything else about the decision until he announced it.

On the Republican side, party officials said on Thursday McCain had not settled on a running mate, although former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty were under serious consideration. Two officials close to Obama also said he had not been offered the job.

OBAMA'S vice presidential choice could help him overcome voter questions about his lack of experience while showing he would appoint strong figures to his government. Those handicapping the choice have Obama looking at (from left): Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

Democratic and Republican officials said both candidates were capable of making solid cost picks that would surprise their backers.

Beyond idle curiosity, speculation surrounding Obama's choice reflects questions about how he will overcome a lingering by McCain, who has repeatedly pointed to what he says is Obama's inexperience in national security and foreign policy matters as evidence that the 47-year-old candidate is ill-equipped to be president.

While McCain is a decorated combat pilot, a veteran senator and a former Vietnam prisoner of war, Obama is a relative newcomer to the national political scene. He made history by becoming the first black person to head a major US political party's presidential ticket, stepping forward in a primary battle against Hillary Rodham Clinton on a message of hope and change.

Expectations are that his selection for vice president would somehow reflect that message. Over the past couple of days, Bayh's name was elevated as Biden—a 33-year member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee whose nomination would blunt some of McCain's criticism about Obama's inexperienced affairs experience.

But Biden, 65, although outspoken and not one to duck questions or maybe because of it, is not among those who Obama supporters would view as a Washington outsider. He has been in the Senate since 1972... when Obama was about 11 years old.

The Delaware senator is reportedly unhappy with his spoiled in the face of growing attention.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin said on Thursday his friend Kaine thinks he is on the short list. Manchin said Kaine told him although he had not heard anything from the Obama campaign on whether he stands on the list, "he really thinks he has a chance or he don't know."

However, Obama did not reveal his choice to Kaine even after they met on Thursday, according to two people close to the Virginia governor. They spoke on conditions of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, a national security expert who has been mentioned as a possible candidate, was at his home in Jamestown on Thursday. He said he was not Obama's choice and that he had not received any background information.

To counter the perception that his campaign has stalled, Obama has stepped up his attacks even as some supporters worry that someone who campaigned on themes of hope and change can be aggressive enough. AP

Pilot of doomed Spanair jet signaled air intake fault

MADRID—TECHNICIANS STUDYING an air intake fault on a Spanair jet just before it crashed in Madrid, the airline said on Thursday but there was no indication it was linked to the accident, the cause of which remains unclear.

A total of 153 people were killed and 18 injured when the MD 82 plane crashed during takeoff at Madrid's airport on Wednesday on a Canary Islands-bound flight.

The jet was about 30 meters off the ground when it veered to the right of the runway before breaking up in flames, Transport Minister Magdalena Alvarez said.

Witnesses have said the left engine was on fire during takeoff, but experts said that was not enough to explain the accident.

The airline on Thursday said the plane had missed on the previous race, before turning back because the pilot had indicated a fault.

"Before the tragic flight, the crewmen zoomed back to the gate...reporting a problem with the heating system in an air intake" valve located under a window in the cockpit, Spanair's deputy managing director Daniel Mendoza said.

"The heating problem was treated and corrected by Spanair maintenance personnel. The fault was isolated and the aircraft dispatched for flight within the set standards of maintenance manuals," he told a news conference.

Chris Yates, aviation analyst with security information group Jane's, said investigators face "a conundrum that may take a significant length of time to unravel."

"The single reasonably hard fact to emerge from this catastrophe is that the left-hand engine appears to have caught fire as the aircraft made its take-off roll."

"Second engine fires are incredibly rare and their cause is inevitably the subject of much speculation."

Investigators will have to examine "both internal and external factors that could have prompted the fire and events that occurred immediately following ignition that could have caused/aided the substantial loss of life."

The Spanish press on Thursday criticized the airline over the disaster, with one newspaper blaming financial problems and cutbacks at Spanair for the tragedy. AFP

Probers: Fires took down building next to Twin Towers

IN THIS Sept. 11, 2001, photo, a crane looms over the smoldering wreckage of World Trade Center Building 7 in New York, whose collapse has long been a mystery.

GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND —Federal investigators said on Thursday they have solved a mystery of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks: the collapse of World Trade Center building 7, a source of long-running conspiracy theories.

The 47-story unprotected building on north of the World Trade Center towers, across Vesey Street in lower Manhattan, On Sept. 11, it was set on fire by falling debris from the burning towers, but skeptics have long argued that fire and debris alone should not have brought down such a big modern steel-concrete structure.

Scientists with the National Institute of Standards and Technology say their three-year investigation of the collapse determined the demise of WTC 7 was actually the first time in the world a fire triggered the total failure of a skyscraper.

"The reason for the collapse of World Trade Center 7 is no longer a mystery" said Dr. Shyam Sunder, the lead investigator on the case.

The building has been the subject of a wide range of conspiracy theories for the last seven years, partly because the collapse occurred about seven hours after the Twin Towers came down. That fueled suspicion that someone intentionally blew up the building in a controlled demolition.

Critics like Mike Berger of the group 9/11 Truth said he wasn't buying the government's explanation.

"Their explanation simply isn't sufficient. We're being fed so," he said, arguing that there was evidence explosives or incendiary explosives were used on the building.

Sunder said his team investigated the possibility that an explosion inside the building brought it down, but found there was no large boom or other noise that would have occurred with such a destructive. Investigators also removed a giant computer model of the collapse, based partly on news footage from CBS News, that they say shows internal column failure brought down the building.

Investigators also ruled out the possibility that the collapse was caused by fires from a substantial amount of diesel fuel that was stored in the building, many of it for generators for the city's emergency operations command center.

The 77-page report concluded that the final blow to the building came when the 13th floor collapsed, weakening a critical steel support column that led to catastrophic failure. AP

US says Russian pullback in Georgia 'far too slow'

GORI, GEORGIA—RUSSIA promised to complete a partial pullback of troops from Georgia by the end of Friday but said an unspecified number of "peacekeeping forces" would stay outside the country, angering the West.

A top US general visiting Georgia condemned the pullout as "far too little, far too slow."

"If they are moving, it's at a snail's pace," Gen. John Craddock, head of the US European Command, told reporters at Tbilisi airport, where he watched the arrival of a US military plane bringing in aid.

Russia and Georgia swore to war after Tbilisi attempted on Aug. 7-8 to retake the Russian-backed rebel province of South Ossetia by force, provoking a massive counterattack from Moscow by land, sea and air.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that military units supporting its peacekeepers would pull back by the end of Friday to South Ossetia from Georgia proper. President Dmitry Medvedev made a similar pledge earlier this week.

But within a new Russian-controlled security zone inside Georgia, the Defense Ministry statement said "peacekeepers in special checkpoints in the separation zone and in remote security will remain."

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said he would not accept that. "There will be no buffer zones. We will never allow anything like this," he told Reuters in Tbilisi.

Russia said it needs to maintain a force in Georgia to prevent further bloodshed and protect South Ossetian areas of whose hold Russian passports—from Georgian attacks. Tbilisi and Moscow were trying to assess his intrinsy.

With the aim of the new security zone unclear and the difference between regular Russian troops and Russian peacekeepers increasingly blurred, it was uncertain how Moscow's pledges actually amounted to.

"There are some checkpoints where one day they are federal troops and the next day peacekeepers," Kakha Lomaia, secretary of Georgia's security council, told Reuters.

The six-point peace plan brokered by France gives Russia the right to take unspecified additional security measures in Georgia pending the arrival of an international force.

But with the United Nations deadlocked since the end of the conflict, the chances of agreeing a resolution on Georgia looked slim.

Russia pressed on Thursday for speedy adoption by the UN Security Council of its resolution endorsing the peace plan but Western powers said they first wanted Moscow to make a substantial withdrawal of troops and agree wording clarifying where Russian forces would be deployed to future. Reuters

Is that really sushi you're eating in New York?

NEW YORK—MANY NEW York sushi restaurants and seafood markets are playing a game of bait and switch, say two high school students researching their hometown.

Rose Shoreliz and Louisa Strauss, who graduated this year from the Trinity School in Manhattan, took on a freelance science project in which they shredded 60 samples of seafood eating a simplified genetic fingerprinting technique called DNA barcoding to see whether the fish New Yorkers buy is what they think they are getting.

They found that 23 percent of the fish samples with identifiable DNA were mislabeled. A piece of sushi sold as the luxury tuna white tuna turned out to be Mozambique tilapia, a much cheaper fish that is often mixed by farming. But the parrotfish to be from flying fish was actually from mackerel. Seven of nine samples that were called red snapper were mislabeled, and they turned out to be anything from Atlantic red to Acadian redfish, an endangered species.

Their field techniques was simple. Rose Shoreliz said. "We ran a lot of socks."

At least Shoreliz's father, Mark, put it, "It involved shopping and eating, in which they were already fluent."

They hit four restaurants and 18 grocery stores in Manhattan. Once the samples were home, they cut away a small piece and presented it to a laboratory. They used bases of unidentified sea life by comparing their samples to the global library of 50,562 barcodes representing nearly 5,500 fish species.

Three hundred dollars' worth of needs later, the young researchers had their data. Results from Gotham's of the four restaurants and six of the 18 grocery stores had sold mislabeled fish.

The results of the teenagers' research are being published in Pacific Fishing magazine, a publication for commercial fishermen. The sample size is too small to serve as an indictment of all New York fishmongers and restaurateurs, but the results are unlikely to be a storm on current habits.

Kate Shoreliz said the underlying message of the research was simple. "If you're paying for white tuna and you're eating tilapia, I think you'd want to know that." NYT

Draft accord to set goals for Iraq pullout

MIRIAM Ulloa, sister of US Army Sgt. Jose Enrique Ulloa, who was killed in Baghdad, cradles a gift flag during his funeral service on Aug. 21.

BAGHDAD—THE UNITED States has agreed to remove combat troops from Iraqi cities by next June and from the rest of the country by the end of 2011 if conditions in Iraq remain relatively stable, according to Iraqi and American officials, a development signaling a security accord governing American forces there.

The withdrawal timetable, which Bush administration officials called "aspirational goals" rather than fixed dates, are contained in the draft of an agreement that must be approved by Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki and other Iraqi leaders before it goes before Iraq's fractious Parliament. It has the support of the Bush administration, American and Iraqi officials said.

American officials stressed repeatedly that meeting the timetables depended on the security situation in Iraq, where sectarian killings and attacks on American forces have declined sharply over the past year from the peak levels in 2006 and 2007. Iraqi officials, who have pushed for an even tighter target date for the United States to end its military operations, could also end up rejecting the draft agreement.

Even so, the accord indicates that the Bush administration is prepared to contain the United States to ending most combat operations in Iraq by less than a year, a much shorter time frame than seemed possible, publicly or as militarily even a few months ago. President Bush and many leading Republicans, including the party's presumptive nominee for president, Sen. John McCain, had repeatedly dismissed timetables for pulling out of Iraq as an admission of defeat that would empower America's enemies.

But Iraq's Shiite-dominated government demanded a withdrawal timetable as the price of legalizing the American military presence in the country after the expiration of the UN mandate at the end of this year. NYT

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Casino

2 suicide bombers kill 64 in Pakistan

WAH, PAKISTAN—TWO SUICIDE BOMBERS blew themselves up outside Pakistan's main army munitions factory on Thursday, killing 64 workers in the deadliest attack on a military installation in the country's history.

In the second bombing to rock the leading coalition government since president Pervez Musharraf resigned on Monday, the attackers struck a crowd of workers leaving the huge complex in Wah, near Islamabad, after their shift.

The Taliban movement claimed responsibility for the carnage and threatened to carry out further suicide attacks if army offensives against militants near the Afghan border was not stopped.

"It's a massive attack," local police chief Nisar Durrani said. "Two men apparently blew themselves up outside the factory during a shift change. The bombers were on foot and they exploded themselves less than a minute apart."

"The death toll has gone up to 64," local police officer Shafiq Ahmed said.

Earlier, the factory in a statement put the toll at 59 dead and 67 wounded.

The charred body of a beardless man, believed to be one of the bombers, lay on the road outside one of the gates. A severed leg, abandoned shoes and several mangled bicycles were scattered nearby.

Dozens of troops, police and military medics swarmed to the large jackets milled around the scene.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani strongly condemned the attack and "directed the authorities to make efforts to expose the hidden hands behind the incident," the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said.

A spokesperson for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, the umbrella group for the country's Taliban militants, said they were responsible.

"Our bombers carried out today's attack. It is in reaction to military operations in Swat and Bajaur," spokesperson Maulvi Omar told AFP by telephone, referring to two northwestern regions where troops are fighting militants.

"Similar attacks will be carried out in other cities of Pakistan including Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi," he said.

The Pakistani Taliban have claimed at least a dozen suicide attacks in Wah. It is a district of about 40 industrial units producing artillery, tank and anti-aircraft ammunition for the Pakistani armed forces. It employs around 15,000 to 30,000 workers.

It adjoins the historic city of Taxila which is home to Buddhist ruins.

Factory worker Riaz Hussain said most of the victims were laborers who were joining the afternoon shift.

"I was working in the factory when I heard one blast and then another. They were huge," he said.

Factory worker Zaheer Shah said the bombers struck "as staff were leaving after finishing their day's duty and it was very crowded."

The blasts came two days after a suicide bomber attacked a hospital in the northwestern town of Jamrud killing 30 people.

Pakistan forces have been fighting fierce battles for nearly two weeks with Taliban militants in Bajaur, a tribal region bordering Afghanistan. The government says more than 300 militants and 30 soldiers have been killed.

Britain's government is under massive international pressure to crack down on militants using safe havens in the rugged tribal belt to launch attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. AFP

A RELATIVE mourns the death of a suicide blast victim at a gate of Pakistan's ordnance factory in Wah, a garrison city about 20 km northwest of Islamabad, on Aug. 21. It was the deadliest attack on a military installation in the country's history. AU/AFP

Pakistan coalition in make-or-break meet

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S ruling coalition was set for a make or break meeting on Friday a day after a double suicide bombing killed 64 people and underscored the government's struggle with extremism.

The feuding coalition was set to meet on the choice of president to replace Pervez Musharraf after he stood down on Monday and on the thorny issue of the reinstatement of judges sacked by the general last year.

The parties of slain former Premier Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, which lead the coalition, were able to agree on impeachment charges that forced Musharraf out of office.

However, since then, Sharif has been pressing for the reinstatement of the judges by Saturday, a day after a double suicide bombing killed 64 people and underscored the government's struggle with extremism.

"The feuding coalition was set to meet on the choice of president to replace Pervez Musharraf after he stood down on Monday and on the thorny issue of the reinstatement of judges sacked by the general last year.

The parties of slain former Premier Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, which lead the coalition, were able to agree on impeachment charges that forced Musharraf out of office.

However, since then, Sharif has been pressing for the reinstatement of the judges by Saturday, a day after a double suicide bombing killed 64 people and underscored the government's struggle with extremism.

"The talks will focus on the the judges issue," Zeinbiqal Panwaraj, a spokesperson for Sharif's party, said.

Elected in February, the coalition has failed to find solutions to Pakistan's economic crisis and to the battle against Taliban and al-Qaida militants in its northwestern tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.

The ruling coalition's earlier wranglings over what to do about Musharraf and the fate of the sacked judges who want their jobs back has distracted it from addressing the militant threat.

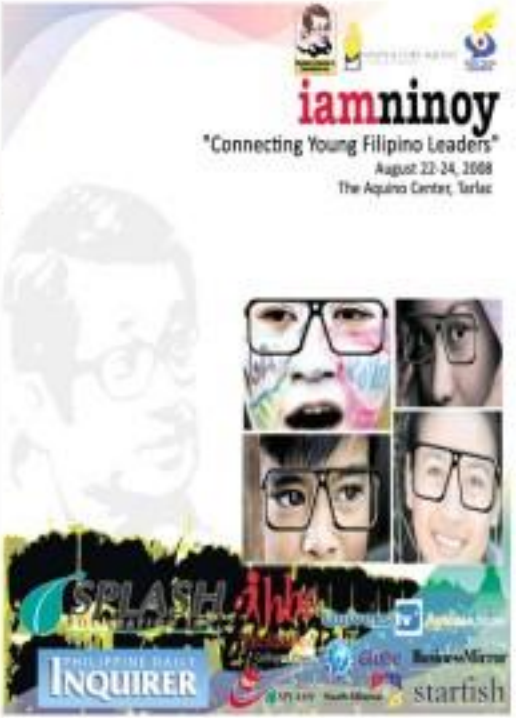
Musharraf ended the supreme court judges during a state of emergency in November to prevent them from scuttling his reelection to another five-year as president.

Sharif spokesperson Farooq said that at the talks on Friday two junior coalition members, ethnic Pashtun leader Asfandyar Wali Khan and hardline Islamist Maulana Fazlur Rehman, "were to give their suggestions on the judges issue."

The stumbling of a coalition split has worried the United States and other countries who want a stable Pakistan. AFP

INTRODUCING
STUDIO 15" NOTEBOOK FROM DELL.

Incredible performance has never looked this good. One touch controls, 5.1 channel surround sound and high definition screen resolution mix with the optional Blu-Ray DVD player to create an unparalleled entertainment experience, within the sleekest, eye-catching body. Amazing looks matched by mind-blowing power. Could you wish for more?



SPORTS

Lito Sahagun, Editor

Other staff, mail to: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

H&H! Anniversary Rivero of the Philippines and Sandra Saric of Croatia (right) exchange kicks during their women's 49kg preliminary round-of-16 taekwondo match at the Beijing Olympics. Rivero, the country's last hope for a medal in these Games, lost to Saric to bow out of contention. AP, AFP

OLYMPIC HEARTBREAK

Last-gasp scheme fails to save Toni

By Ted S. Malonzo

BEIJING—IN THE END, HER FOCUS WAS SHATTERED by the enormity of the load she carried for an expectant nation.

And for the second consecutive Olympiad, Mary Antoinette Rivero came so grief again.

In bowing to Croatia's Sandra Sarić Friday, "Toni" failed to redeem herself from a previous Olympic heartbreak and to pull her country out of the doldrums in the world's greatest sporting arena.

The brave young woman from Pasig City simply threw caution to the wind against the Croatian and reaped the wholehearted.

"It was a very close fight in the first and second rounds," said Rivero's coach Rodey Jimenez. "But in the third round, we had to change our strategy. We had to press and [Sarić had to go because we didn't have time to catch up with [her]."

Jimenez said they felt that the Filipina was in control and actually winning.

"She was the more aggressive fighter," he added. "There was a second exchange in the second round and I was hoping that it was only Toni who's scored. It turned out that the Croatian also got a score from the judges."

The last-round play backfired.

In pressing forward in taking the fight to the enemy, a suddenly mobile Rivero left herself open to the Croatian's counter thrusts and the unconsidered three consecutive points set [the rest] set.

When it ended, Rivero was shellshocked by her loss that she refused to be interviewed by reporters, and listeners pleaded for understanding.

"We're proud of Toni's performance, though," said the coach, himself stunned by the result. "Deep down, she did her best. She fought [as] she could. I'll give her space, I'll let her rest. I told her to treasure this valuable experience."

National taekwondo chief Robert Aseneta also consoled Rivero over the phone and praised her for fighting bravely. "I told her if she fought under immense pressure to win for her country and never as Olympic drama.

"Hindi bale, basa ito po nanood (Don't worry, you're still young, it's not yet your time)," he told Rivero. "May London pa naman sa 2012. (There's still London in four years.)"

Japan halts US softball streak

US defeat may yet save sport's Olympic bid

TURNED Jessica Mendoza (inset) and the three runs to score. AP

BEIJING—SO IT TURNED OUT, THE face that might save Olympic softball doesn't belong to Jennie Finch.

When the International Olympic Committee meets next year in Copenhagen to decide whether the sport will be reinstated for the 2012 Games, it's quite possible the ouster from an unnerving 36 hours per to by Japan's Yukiko Ueno will still be etched in their minds.

Thursday night, the 26-year-old lefthurler went to arguably the most nerve-wracking upset of the Beijing Games, tipping the United States 5-3 in the gold medal game. It marked the first time in four Olympiads that the Americans—who hadn't given up an earned run in this year's tournament—failed to win.

That was mainly because of Ueno. She pitched nine innings in a 4-1 extra-hand loss to the US on Wednesday. Under softball rules, Japan could still recapture the gold medal game if it could beat Australia, the runner-up of the other semifinal.

That game went 12 innings, with Japan eventually taking a 4-3 decision. The hurler let all 12 frames was Ueno.

Even after throwing 23 innings and an estimated 300 pitches, Ueno was master Thursday. When the game ended, the frustration the Americans felt all night was released in an explosion of emotion. Cat Osterman, the starting and losing pitcher, collapsed into the arms of her coach, Mike Candrea, sobbing uncontrollably.

It was a stunning end for a team riding a 22-game Olympic winning streak, one that had drawn comparisons to the Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson-led basketball Dream Team of 1992.

"We just couldn't buy a hit when we needed one and frankly, Japan was the better team tonight," Candrea said. "But I still love this team. As often it's hard to handle the disappointment, but it's like I told them after the game, there will be other things in their life more tough than what happened tonight."

It's possible the wing from Thursday's loss will be subdued next October in Denmark.

Softball, which isn't on the program for the 2012 Games in London, is one of seven sports that will be considered for what are two open slots in 2016. When it was dropped in 2005, the softball sessions given by the IOC was that the sport wasn't "universal" enough, that there were only three or four nations at a high competitive level.

However, there were also other factors.

"I suppose if you were scanned that you were keeping a sport that the Americans were guaranteed to win, Japan just down a stake through the heart of their argument," said Dick Pound, an IOC member from Canada. "I just think the real difficulty was that people thought it was a women's basketball," and the members were mad at baseball for not sending the best players to the Games and not caring at all about doping." AVI News Service

GET A POSTPAID LINE WITH JUST ONE VALID ID!

The easy-to-get postpaid line with easy-to-get rewards!

Easy APPROVAL
Just one valid ID. No questions asked!

Easy ON THE POCKET
For only ₱250 monthly get
• Text Unlimited*
• 20 minutes Sun-to-Sun calls daily**

Easy REWARD
FREE ₱50 Regular Load*** for every early payment!
It's like getting your money back!

Easy BILLING
Billing reminders sent via SMS

Add'l ₱1,000 to get a Nokia 1208.
Earn this back through higher DAILY REWARD of ₱100 Regular Load*** for early payments!

Visit The Sun Shops Now!

NO HOLDING PERIOD FOR BOTH EASYLINE AND EASYPHONE

www.suncellular.com.ph Hotline: 395-8000

sun CELLULAR
Better Network. Better Value.

Pinoys out to end Thais' 12-year Putra reign

FEARLESS Aurora Farewell amateur star

By Manang B. Castillo

A PHILIPPINE GOLF TEAM IMBUED with experience and power departs for Singapore tomorrow evening to end a 12-year title drought while breaking Thailand's two-decades-old stranglehold of the Putra Cup, Southeast Asia's official team championship.

Reigning Philippine Am champion Benito Arpon, RP Open low amateur winner Juvanni Abalos and Ifugao titan Leocardo Gaviola—Tagaytay and Teofilo Subido complete the team manny Ivel has in store chances of hitting pay dirt.

"The 28-year-old Arpon is in his 6-ird year as an amateur and would like nothing than a respectable showing, if not a championship romp in Singapore, to add to his resumé that also includes several international titles.

Abalos, inconsistent, is a 22-year-old product of the National Caddies' Open program in Calatagan. Like Arpon, he will be playing in his fourth straight tournament wearing the Philippine colors.

Incidentally, Arpon and Abalos were to the team that collapsed in the final round at the Country Club in Laguna last year, throwing away a spectacular rally from 12 strokes down to allow Thailand to escape with a two-shot win.

Bayron, the reigning ISM Open champion and younger brother of former RP amateur ace Jay, will be playing for the Philippines for the first time and is expected to contribute heavily in the four-to-play, three-to-count format.

Arpon, on the other hand, is a veteran international, having played for the Philippines in several age-group tournaments before qualifying as under the team last week.

"We've got a pretty solid team this year. We expect Arpon and Abalos to provide the experience through all four rounds and Bayron and Subido the occasional one-day gem day," said national coach Hong Lopez.

Thailand has been eight of the last 11 editions of this event and will be working on a second straight title at the Singapore Island's Bukit course starting Tuesday.

The Philippines, with a team built around Antonio Lascuña and Rey Pagunsan, last triumphed in this tournament in 1996 in Muar, Johor, where Lascuña also completed a sweep for the individual titles by winning the individual title.

Philippine teams led by the late great Jun "Tidoro" Silverio and "boxing Monsour" were practically unbeatable up until the late 1980s before Thailand began winning in 1995.

The Thais closed out the 1990s with four straight titles before losing the 2001 plum to the Malaysians in Malaysia and starting a string of three more championships after that. Thailand and not the Philippines did not play in the 2006 staging in Papua New Guinea which Singapore won.

Jun Estrada, the National Golf Association of the Philippines secretary-general, and director Pablo Sison will head the RP delegation.

De La Paz 4 shots down

BAMBIE DE LA PAZ IMPROVED with a one-over 73 but still stood four strokes behind new leader Tepparit Kraengkajorn of Thailand after three rounds of play in the Malaysian Ladies Open at the Tanjoneng Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

With a 215 total, De la Paz moved to joint fourth with Indonesian ace Lidya Jaya (75) and Thai Pakaphun Limna (70) with 18 holes left.

Kraengkajorn turned in the tournament's first under-par score (-7) in the grinded a three-shot lead over two-day leader Nicol Ann Bahiat, who made a 77 and dropped to a share of second with Jaru Chandra of Indonesia, who carded a 73, at 224.

Oscar's latest proposal: 67-33

Pacquiao camp says it has yet to receive new offer

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHAT IS ALREADY DUBBED AS THE biggest "boxing circus of the century" took a big step toward reality after Oscar De La Hoya reportedly made a fresh offer to Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao: A 67-33 split of the gate, pay-per-view sales.

It was a slight bend back word on the part of the "Golden Boy" after the Filipino rejected his 70-30 proposal even though it would have easily fetched at least $15 million... equivalent to three fights against lesser-known foes.

But Dan Lazo said that it was a gesture of goodwill from De La Hoya's camp, although it will still have to be discussed if ever it was made official.

"We will see if he (Pacquiao) will agree or not or if ever there would be any development in the negotiation," Lazo said.

Pacquiao originally asked for 60-40 split of the PPV buys which experts said could easily reach two million buys approximately worth $100 million.

De La Hoya's 2007 fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. reportedly netted 2.4 million buys—the biggest earning fight in boxing history... and yielded the newly retired boxer $52 million. Mayweather Jr., son of De La Hoya's trainer, got a 70-30 split in that fight.

Boxing Confidential's investment expert said De La Hoya agreed to budge and made Pacquiao "an offer he can't refuse."

Both fighters agreed to other details of the fight including the use of eight-ounce gloves and 147lbs catch weight. Both Dec. 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

In other interest reports, Pacquiao's flamboyant trainer Freddie Roach stressed no for the fight to happen and even proposed a cost way of splitting the revenue.

In an interview with ESPN.com, Roach said De La Hoya could have 60 percent, Pacquiao 30 percent and the last 10 percent will go to the referee of the super fight.

"I think Manny and Oscar like to gamble a little bit," Roach was quoted as saying. "I have that idea. Just give the extra percentage to the winner of the fight.

"Let's make this a real prize fight. The winner gets the 10 percent. Then down turnout in the fight and shows that those guys really want to fight each other. People love it when something is on the line. Let's put something on the line. I know both guys like to gamble."

DE LA Hoya looks on Pacquiao fight

SPORTSWATCH

Rambulan staglest today

NO LESS THAN P3 MILLION IN guaranteed prizes await the champions in today's SJC Rambulan Open 6-ring derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

Today's opening round will feature some 80 fights. The elimination days will be on Aug. 23, 25-27, 30 and Sept. 1 while the championship is on Sept. 6.

Meanwhile, Sanbinsan Sister Improvement will stage the "Run The Clock Fastest Mile One-Grab Medal" on Aug. 28, with P110,000 on the line for the derby first of PSGC.

For more details, call Brot. Marcus or Cherie at tel. nos. 725-0366 and 725-9982.

Las Piñas derby underway

CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTS WILL BE held today in the first of final round of Las Piñas Coliseum's "Las Piñas Annual 7 – stag derby" starting at 2 p.m. with some 80 encounters.

Tarcoolmos with three wins each—OBC and Diamond King which coach the Brahma Bunch Roundtrack of Mayor Nene Aguilar—lead the bunches.

Other top qualifiers with 3-0 tallies are Sto. Cristo Mark 4, Team B, RJ Makeover, LCC, Boy Jorge, Alonzo 4-stag Dept. 4 and Triple K.

Gymnastics, dancesport in Looney Tunes series

ACTION IN THE LOONEY TUNES World Games resumes today at SM Megamall with a big field eying for top honors in rhythmic gymnastics, men's and women's artistic gymnastics and aerobics. Registration starts at 10 a.m. with the finals of the rhythmic gymnastics set at 1 p.m. The women's artistic gymnastics finals is set at 3 p.m. while the aerobics finals will be held at 4 p.m. The event also features gymnastics clinics for kids 12 years old and below.

Spanish F1 on Star Sports

THE 2008 FORMULA ONE SEASON resumes this weekend as the Spanish Grand Prix will be aired live today on Star Sports at 7:40 p.m. for the qualifying race and Aug. 24, 7 p.m. (race day). McLaren-Mercedes hopes to continue its three-race winning streak, dating back to the British Grand Prix, with Lewis Hamilton leading the way with 82 points in the Drivers Championship.

TOP TWO Roger Federer (left) and Rafael Nadal shake hands during a presentation event in New York for the U.S. Open. tennis' final Grand Slam event which starts Aug. 25. Nadal is ranked No. 1, the first time since Jan. 2004 that a man other than Federer holds the top spot as a World Slam.

RP chess team confident vs Russia

Standings after six rounds:

(7.5 points—Russia; 5½—Philippines; tens; 5.5—Ukraine, England, Armenia; 5½—Azerbaijan, Slovakia; 5.5—Turkey-A; 5½—Turkey-Mevlut; 5—Switzerland, Israel, India; 4½—Greece, Syria, Turkey-Ulvi-A, Turkey-C; 3½—Brazil, Poland; 3—Switzerland-B, Turkey-B

MODEN, TURKEY — THE PHILIPPINES got a much-needed break Thursday to time for their all-important seventh-round showdown against top-seed Russia in the Model Under-16 Chess Olympiad at the Mevlut Uysal Municipality Indoor Hall here.

Still wearing from a close 1.5-2.5 setback to defending champion India in the sixth round Wednesday the Filipinos spent some time fine-tuning their games in preparation for the much-awaited encounter against the top-seeded Russians in the tough, 11-round tournament organized by the Turkish Chess Federation and sanctioned by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

GM Wesley So (Elo 2577) will play the top board for the Filipinos against IM Aleksandr Shimanov (Elo 2460).

Shimanov has five wins and only one loss in the hands of IM E. Adhiban of India in the second round which ended 3.5–3 in the Indians' favor.

NM Rastelan Paorao, Oliver John Dano and Jan Emmanuel Gerola will battle with the Filipinos' biggest test to the tournament.

Aside from Shimanov, Russia will field Oleg Yakuin (Elo 2307), WFM Anastasiia Bodiakina (Elo 2299) and either WFM Natver Seffoa (Elo 2201) or IM Dzhobrokh (Elo 2333).

"This is another big challenge for the team, but I'm confident Wesley and our three other players can hold their own very against the Russians," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president Prospero "Boots" Pichay.

"Wesley, who has five wins and one draw, is also right on target for his second straight individual gold medal on board one," he added.

So far, the four-man RP team under coach GM Rommenteam "Rey" Villamayor have racked up three wins, two draws and one loss so far.

The Filipinos won over Turkey Gelu-k, 4-4, in the first round; Slovakia, 3-1, in the second round; and Turkey-A, 3.5–3, in the fourth round.

They drew with sixth seed Georgia, 2-2, in the third round and seventh seed Armenia, 2-2, in the fifth round.

The only defeat came at the hands of India, 1.5-2.5, in the sixth round.

Overall, the Philippines is tied with India with 16 points, one and a half points behind Russia with still four rounds remaining in this prestigious tournament which attracted 26 teams from 10 countries.

In other crucial seventh-round matches, it will be India against Georgia ; Armenia against England and Azerbaijan against Slovakia.

The Filipinos are actually hoping to improve their Olympiad finish behind India and Hungary in last year's edition held in Siberia.

So also made history by bagging the individual gold medal by scoring nine wins and one draw in Singapore last year.

All set for int'l golf show on Sept. 19-21

THE 13TH EDITION OF "THE PHILIPpine International Golf Show, the biggest consumer golf show in Asia, is set on Sept. 19-21 at the Hall 3 of SMX Convention Center in SM Mall of Asia.

Hosted by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines, the show will bring together the world's biggest golf brands such as Callaway, Wilson Golf, Taylormade, Mizuno, Wilson, Bushnell Golf, Master, Ashworth, Maxfli, Cobra Golf, Titleist, Ping and Titleist.

"This year's goldshow is 100% booked," said Golf Show chairman Randy Rama of Passports. "We are happy to have all these major brands participating again. We are sure that golfers will jot miss this chance to get the best deal from their favorite brands."

Media sponsors include Inquirer Sour Inquirer, Inquirer Gosi Golf Digest Philippines, www.philippinesgolf.com, Asia 66.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and Max 103.3.

Thousands of golf enthusiasts, ambassador and from other countries are expected to visit the golf show, which is popular for its major price slashdowns and other gimmicks from exhibitors, including Arm Industrial Development, Arma Enterprises, Arrobales Marketing, Bess's Shoes, Bishop Sherger International, Dynamic Equipment, Elevation Consolidated, Gainer's Marketing and Golf King.

Philspada-NPC gets top award

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS ASSOCIATION for the Differently Abled, National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines (Philspada-NPC) headed by former PSC commissioner Michael Barrazo received the Disabled Group of the Year award from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Aug. 8 in Malacañang.

Philspada was awarded for enabling Filipino athletes with disabilities to achieve sporting excellence in an optimum environment to inspire and bring honor and glory to the country.

Archers eye semis berth in Franz's 'final' game

By Jaroslaw W Poyo

A DEMOTING COACH, DOGGED with a desire to validate a controversial win, have fueled La Salle's bid for the second UAAP Final Four berth.

The Green Archers hope to advance to the next round when they square off for Games Tomorrow with head coach Franz Pumaren by their side for the last time in the eliminations round of the 71st season's basketball competition.

"It's an important game for us," said Pumaren, who will leave for Tehran, Iran on Monday to mentor the Nokan Philippine Youth Team in the Fiba Asia Junior Men Championship.

"We're trying to get as many wins as possible as a buffer before I leave."

The Archers, running second with an 8-2 record, aim for a repeat win over the Tamaraws in their 4 p.m. clash at the Philsports Arena.

But the Tamaraws intend to put aside the controversy that led to the indefinite suspension of referee Bryan Tolentino for questionable calls in the game won by the defending champion Archers, 73-62, in the first round.

"It's over. But was a good lesson for us," said FEU coach Glenn Capacio. "We're no longer thinking whether there was a controversy or not. We're just focusing on our next game, our strengths and weaknesses."

The Junior Tamm Tigers, at fifth place with a 6-6 slate, also plunge into a crucial match against the Seasoned U Bulldogs at 2 p.m.

With their semifinal hopes still flickering, the Tigers must pull off a victory to remain within striking distance of the fourth remaining University of the East.

Only the winless Blue Eagles, heading over the field with a 10-1 card, have secured a Final Four spot.

A Tamaraws victory will forge a tie for second place.

PCU'S Marlon Ibanez and Perpetual's Michael Wong vie for ball possession

Lions defuse Bombers, gain share of lead

By Cedell P Tigas

THE WIN WAS ALREADY IN THE BAG, but Xian Elloso, on her hard-fought game-long, wound it in the second to give up one more.

The 6-foot-8 Nigerian exerted away Mavele Hayes' incessant quarrel for rebounds left, underscoring Jun Reda's relentless approach on defense that keyed a 71-66 crushing of Jose Rizal University and propelled the Lions to a share of the lead deep into the second round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"We played our normal game. They (Lions) followed defensive rules," said San Sebastian coach Franklin Lim, whose Stags remained in Final Four hunt with their eighth win in 11 games. "We're happy to be back on top. We want to finish strong."

"They (Bombers) were due for a loss," Lim said after San Sebastian trapped the Bombers' eight-game winning run. "They have been overwhelming."

Elloso also sparkled on the offensive end, nailing a game-high 17 points, majority coming from his smooth, high-arcing jumpshots. Backed by Reda's 15 points and 13 rebounds, the Lions survived a late three-point attempt by Jeff Viernes that would've sent the game into overtime.

Elloso's heroics came after Jose Rizal University's Jeff Viernes missed a three-point attempt that would've sent the game into overtime.

Reda's rebounding prowess also helped the Lions overcome a 10-point deficit in the second half.

UNDERAGED?

Questions still hound Chinese gymnasts

HEADLESS Evgeniya Kuzunova of Russia puts her head all the way back as she performs with the hoop in the individual all-around qualification during the rhythmic gymnastics competition at the Beijing Olympics. AP PHOTO

BEIJING—DESPITE PERSISTENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AGES OF SEVeral members of the Chinese women's gymnastics team that won the gold medal, the International Olympic Committee said Friday there is still no proof anyone cheated and believes the controversy will be "put to rest."

China has again given the governing body of gymnastics documents that show its athletes are eligible, said coach Guo Shanchen said the girls' birthdays are "indisputable" that the issue won't go away.

"It's not just me. The parents of our athletes are all very indignant," Lu said in an interview with The Associated Press. "They have faced groundless suspicion. Why aren't they believed? Why are their children suspected?"

The IOC asked the International Gymnastics Federation to investigate "what have been a number of questions and apparent discrepancies," spokeswoman Giselle Davies said. The FIG has said repeatedly that a passport is the "accepted proof of a gymnast's eligibility," and that China's gymnasts have presented more than shows they are age eligible. The IOC also checked the girls' passports and deemed them valid before the games began.

Lu said the Chinese gave the FIG documents Thursday that included the current and former passport, ID card and family residence permit for double gold medalist He Kexin. Lu said the documents all say the was born in 1992, which makes her eligible to compete.

Earlier this month, the AP based registration lists previously posted on the website of the General Administration of Sport of China that showed both He and Yang were too young to compete. He was born Jan. 1, 1994, according to the 2005, 2006 and 2007 registration lists.

Yang was born Aug. 26, 1993, according to the 2004, 2005 and 2006 registration lists. In the 2007 registration list, however, her birthday has changed to Aug. 26, 1992.

The Chinese women won six medals, including the team gold and He's gold on uneven bars. Media reports include a Nov. 3, 2007 story by the Chinese government's news agency, Xinhua, that suggests He is only 14.

The minimum age was raised to 16 sources AP in 2997. Younger gymnasts are considered to have an advantage because they are more flexible, and are likely to have an easier time doing the tough skills the sport requires. They often aren't as likely to have a history of injuries or fear of failure. AP

CHINA'S star gymnasts are constantly chased by questions about their age, despite submitting supporting documents. AP PHOTO

Clay nears decathlon triumph

BEIJING—BRYAN CLAY FELT A COMmanding lead through eight events Friday and was on the brink of becoming the first American since 1996 to win the Olympic decathlon gold medal as the "world's greatest athlete."

Clay had 7,860 points with only Friday night's javelin and 1,500 meters remaining.

He was 324 points ahead of his nearest competitor, Andrei Krauchanka of Belarus, who had 7,060. Alexander Pogorelov of Russia was third with 6,979.

The last US gold medalist to the sweet was Dan O'Brien in Atlanta in 1996.

In his three events during Friday's daylong session, Clay was second fastest in the 110 meter hurdles (13.95 seconds), set an Olympic best in the discus at 51.79 meters, then cleared 5.00 meters in the pole vault, tied for second best in the competition.

Trey Hardee, runner-up to Clay at this year's US trials, was a close fourth throughout seven events but failed to clear his opening height in the pole vault to plummet in the standings.

Clay, a record three times at 4.70, spelling a chance for the United States to win two medals in the decathlon for the first time since Bill Campbell and Rafer Johnson were 1-2 in the 1956 Melbourne Games. He also had cleared 5.60 this year and has a lifetime best of 5.10.

World record holder Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic, reigning world and Olympic champion, was seventh with 6,823.

Clay replaced Thursday morning's discus star and Clay got off to a fast start, just as he did the day before.

The 2004 Olympic silver medalist and 2003 world champion won his heat in the 110-meter hurdles in 13.95 seconds, well off his best but still the second-fastest time in the competition.

Then came the discus, where Clay dominated as expected. Even though he is ranked by decathlete standards at 1.80 meters (5-foot-11), 100 kilograms (180 pounds), the throws are among his best events. He set a personal best in the shot put on Thursday. AP

Schedule and Results

Aug. 22, Saturday

ARCHERY

Special Event: Olympic Open Contest

1 p.m.—MARIAN KAJOZSI (HUN) and EL-VIRE DEBAUW (BEL), matches quarterfinals and semifinals

BY RESULTS

Aug. 18, CANOE/KAYAK (Beijing Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park)

KING HAN—Final (placing). Had to: 53.63 to 2:09 about canoe's individual time

Aug. 9, SHOOTING (National Olympic Shooting Center)

AGNES BALSAI—Final placing: 20th in field of 44, men's 25m center fire pistol (1,128.20)

WOJCIECH CZYZEWSKI, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics

SEBASTIEN DIRLY—Final placing: 15th (shot score: 97 of 98, eliminated pool: 197 of 240) THE ONG, women's 10-kg skeet

Aug. 13, SWIMMING

MIGUEL MOLINA—Final placing: 40th in a field of 52. (5th in Heat 7, men's 200m breaststroke (2:10.84)

Aug. 14, SWIMMING

MIGUEL MOLINA—Final placing: 27th in a field of 54. (3rd in Heat 7, men's 100m breaststroke (1:00.66)

CHRISTEL SIMMS—Final placing: 42nd in a field of 62. (6th in Heat 2, women's 100m freestyle

KAREN ALMOND (Undefeated in 122 match by Kara Dawn Lynch (NZL), 10s - 0:0)

ALEXEI ZHDANOVICH (Beijing Shunyi Stadium)

HARRY HANNAH—Eliminated in Round of 32 by Hungary Tiunga (CAN), 8-2

Aug. 14, SWIMMING

DANIEL CHALET—Final placing: 30th in a field of 62. (20th in Heat 2, men's 100m freestyle)

Aug. 15, CYCLING

SAMUEL MAU PEREZ—Final placing: (3rd in a field of 20, women's 3 rounds sprint/points)

SWIMMING

CHRISTEL SIMMS—Final placing: 47th in a field of 66, fourth in Heat 8, women's 100m freestyle

MARK ADAMS III—Final placing: 29th in a field of 52. (3rd in Heat 5, men's 1,500m freestyle)

Aug. 16, EQUESTRIAN (National Stadium)

HENRY TAKOMA—Final placing: 39th in a field of 20-2 (2 clear, 18th of 20 in Group A), men's long jump

Aug. 18, EQUESTRIAN

MARGUERITA TORRES—Final placing: 34th in a field of 51 (1 1/2s, 13th of 25 in Group B, women's long jump

Aug. 20

SWIMMING

Olympic city of Science and Technology (Beijing)

TSUNAMI JU (JK—Eliminated by Ryan Cornell (USA), 7-0, exploratory fight, men's +78 kg

Aug. 21

SWIMMING

MARY ANTOINETTE MARTIN—Eliminated by Sandra Sanz (ESP), 4-1, in preliminary fight, women's 52 kg

ARCHERY

(National Archery Center)

RYAN RUSSELL ANDOLA—Final placing: 20th in a field of 128, men's 18 meters platform qualification

Shining, successful Beijing is her own jewel

BEIJING—THIS IS JUST A BIG mask, everything here is pre-set, mostly make-believe, the outward screaming scented.

All that's here before me is a dream, a construct, as I packed my bags yesterday before leaving this beautiful, dignified capital that has hosted what may sound sports officials swear is the best, greatest Olympics.

Traffic will return to normal, there will be chaos, the city will be strewn with garbage, single citizens, some to vacationlike, will roam the streets and spit anywhere.

When the clock strikes eight Sunday night, it's said, the Olympic spell vanishes, and Beijing will be its old self again.

The magic disappears after the closing-day fireworks display.

* * *

Unlike in Athens four years ago, what I've seen here the past two weeks is all a child's dream?

Okay, but didn't CNN brand the Olympic media park that hosted like housing at the midnight runner yelling of unrest in the run up to the Beijing Summer Games?

Didn't they insist China was trying to hide something, the reason behind the restrictions and human rights violations?

BARE EYE

Alistair Thirkell

Well, thank you, but there have to believe all that they've alleged now?

Two weeks in this city and you feel the old apology in your old legs, not older than the mountains in the great black mosquito had written after his last and final trip here.

* * *

Not exactly younger than springtime, OK, but walking the tree-lined city side streets, the scent of the newly cut grass blending with the vesper song of crickets, climb the secret childhood evenings in James Agee's now-movie Knoxville.

For the record, this reporter planned to leave initially flustered the day after the Olympics opened to explosion.

Because The drive from the airport was, indeed, like walking into an old Fellini movie.

There was gray visibility, the ride to the city a surreal trip that made one suspect blocks could anytime speak from atop the steady lush of roadside trees.

It was easy to believe CNN did right in sending advance warnings about dangerous pollution in the city.

It [sun] looked apparent Beijing was trying to hide something from the world.

* * *

Anyway, one big downpour the next day, shortly after lunch, and the dusk, surreal haze that had loomed like a rendezvous was gone.

Not a scent or a hint of dirty haze hanging persist either out in the busy, carpacked city streets.

Everything looked young and fresh, smelling fine too, unlike back home when rain built through the asphalt. Jungle could send the asthmatic climate straight to the emergency ward.

Still, to make the long story short, Beijing is not what American media had projected it would be in the run-up to the Olympics.

OK, only a couple of days left before they close the Olympics here, but the only thing I truly want is Beijing's freak-luster gift they open midday cap in the morning.

But, hey, that little girl has also grown to be a lady not just another lady, but a full-grown woman safe and dignified.

She visibly has not been affected by robust riches.

There's nothing of the outside, fancy smell that normally accompany metropolitan growth.

* * *

No one, there are no fancy cupplane on most of the towering buildings fining the vast commercial district.

Unlike in new mansions that sprout on in the Philippine countryside, Manila or other developing countries, these structures here don't shout out loud (and in dismaying colors, too) of how much the owners have earned with their wits.

China did work very, very hard, practically from scratch, but its announcement of great progress has been tempered by understatement.

That young girl with the face of a morning flower has grown up and married, but a definitely did not get finished to an enormous, unlike most other Asian capitals.

There's a sprinkling or McDonald's and KFC outlets out here.

But, on the whole, Beijing has remained here own master, original jewel.

Thank you and farewell for now, sweet, grand lady.

If anything goes wrong after the Olympics, please know the reporting to ski, reliable CNN.

Russia on course for 'synchronized' sweep

RUSSIA'S Svetlana Romashina swimming team gets into its performance almost flawlessly AP PHOTO

BEIJING—RUSSIA PLACED first in the technical routine of the synchronized swimming team event Friday, moving on course to sweep both the duet and team events for the third straight Olympics.

The team was awarded a near-perfect 49.500 points. Spain was awarded with 48.917 points and China was third with 48.584.

The team event concludes Saturday with the free routine.

Svetlana Romashina and Anastasia Davydova won gold in the duet Wednesday and are also part of Russia's eight-woman squad for the team event.

Wearing suits with red hearts on the front and silver-sequined lightning bolts on the backs, the Russians showed off clean aquatic moves, lifts and splits to the "Spanish Suite" by Albeniz.

The music choice may have been a response to the decision by the Spanish duet to use traditional Russian music in their technical routine Monday.

Spain dethroned Russia at the 2007 World Trophy Cup, but Russia has won gold at the past two Olympics and past five world championships.

The Russian team had not competed since last year's World Championships in Melbourne, Australia, and its new routine was created behind closed doors.

Besides the teammates, the other members of Russia's team are Nadia Avramova, Natalia Ishchenko, Elvira Khanyukova, Olga Kuzhela, Elena Ovchinnikova and Svetlana Romashina.

Russia earned all 9.9's and one 9.8 for both execution and overall impression.

Spain performed to the "Happy Feet" soundtrack and won a big applause for a unique windmill move. AP

Americans shock Brazil's Canarinhas

Overtime goal seals football upset

BEIJING—IT HAD BEEN THE LONGEST OF ALL YEARS FOR THE US women's soccer team and for its goalkeeper. The Americans had taken their record finishing to history from Brazil in last autumn's World Cup semifinals and Hope Solo had been chastised by her teammates for criticizing coach Greg Ryan for benching her.

But on a cool and moist evening inside the Home Run Man Built, the US wrote a fresh gilt-edged page for its five-starred storybook, stunning the favored Canarinhas, 1-0, on Carli Lloyd's goal six minutes into overtime before a crowd of 51,612 at Workers' Stadium. Thursday's victory

"I feel amazing," said Solo, after her teammates had won the gold medal for the third time since 1996 and left the Brazilians shocked and sweeping on the ground. "I am on cloud nine, just floating out there."

Of all of the triumphs at Olympics, this was the sweetest for the Yanks because it was the unlikeliest. They'd struggled from the first few minutes of the tournament, losing to a Norwegian team that didn't make the medal round. They squeaked past the Japanese, 3-0, and had to go to overtime to beat the Canadians in the quarterfinals.

The Brazilians, who'd bantered the US, 4-0, in their Cup meeting, had run the Germans dizzy in their 4-1 semifinal triumph here. This finally appeared to be their time.

"We thought we were going to win," said coach Jorge Barcellos. "We were very confident."

And yet the Canarinhas fell short in overtime again, just as they had in Athens four years ago when they played the Americans off their feet and lost on Abby Wambach's header.

"Everybody knows that we seemed to win the gold," said Marta, who was thwarted all night long. "And again we came out of the match without it."

The US may have had its problems in the Cup, settling for bronze at the last two tournaments. But when they come to Olympics, the Americans turn into goddesses. While they couldn't match Brazil for speed, flair, or temperament, they brought defenders to the ball and knocked yellow jerseys around like pinballs. And whenever snipers Marta and Cristiane slipped through, Solo was up next to mind them.

Her biggest save came in the 77th minute, when Marta fired a close-range rocket from the left side that Solo tended away with her right forearm.

"I was getting ready to get up and communicated," continued Barcellos. "But, unfortunately, it didn't go to."

Solo was an imposing presence in the final, soaring to knock aside crosses and punch out corners. And once her teammates began finding their rhythm and attacking with boldness, they mostly won the match before it the dozing minutes of regulation. Angela Hucles zipped a diagonal that keeper Barbara had to dive to save. Then, just before added time, Amy Rodriguez broke to shoot and chipped a ball that Barbara had no leap to block.

Victory came in the 96th minute when Rodriguez, with her back to the goal, fed the ball to Lloyd just outside the box and Lloyd rocketed a left footer to the far corner of the net.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I would have scored the goal that gave us the gold medal," said Lloyd, who just missed another when she'hit the far post three minutes from the end of overtime.

New York Times News Service

A HEAVILY tattooed Natasha Kai celebrates the American victory

CRESTFALLEN of Brazil covers her face after the defeat

Hope floats: No more Solo flights for US goalkeeper

GOALKEEPER Hope Solo celebrates with a fake gold medal and a phone call

BEIJING—ONCE AGAIN, HOPE SOLO was alone.

This time, the moment felt golden.

The game was over now, and the vindication was complete, and the blond goalkeeper bounded across the dampturf of Workers' Stadium like a girl at play.

One after another, she fired outbursts of air tennessee-whos had come

Then was the player who could not

And as she optimized away from her teammates, toward the goalkeeper's box to her left. There was a fake gold medal around her neck the real one was to come and another in her hand. She shot her arms into the air once more. And then she dialed her cell phone to talk to her brother Marcus.

"We just won the damn gold medal," she said. "We won the bleep-bleep-bleep gold medal."

Even many ways, this was the perfect final scene of the story of the imperfect goalkeeper. Her teammates stood half a field away. Her Brazilian opponents were crumpled beside the game-stealing blow they had lost a 14-overtime game in the Americans for the women's soccer gold.

And Solo? Even Solo wondered how that whole crazy story had come to such a magnificent ending.

She was the player who could not

Now, she was the goalkeeper who had shut out the wonderful Brazilians for two hours' worth of play. She was the player who had stopped the eleven-Cristiane-and-who-had missed the magical Marta.

"I couldn't believe it," Solo said later. "Honestly, it was control in me. It was too positive."

It was only 11 months ago—when Solo was cajoled over being benched for worse US goalie Briana Scurry before a World Cup game against Brazil. The Americans lost that game 4-0, and after

Looking back, maybe the cue of the United States could have been a bit more understanding. Yeah, Solo is a still

Recently before the World Cup, Solo's father, Jeffrey, had died. They had a close relationship. Others referred to Jeffrey as boisterous, but Solo prefers to say he chose to live in the woods. She

But called of making him treasured and

After his father died, she took to wearing his ashes in the goal box before World Cup games. Suddenly, she was being pulled out of that goal box. How could she not be upset?

In some ways, however, perhaps this gold medal was forged in those moments. Ryan was soon replaced as coach by Pia Sundhage, who put two questions to her team.

"Do you want to win?" she said.

"Yes."

"Do you think you need good goalending to win?" she said.

"Yes."

Oh, it wasn't all Solo. The Americans' defense played well, and Carli Lloyd scored in the ninth minute of overtime.

Still, there are moments to talk about the team, and moments to go Solo.

And as the keeper in the green shirt lapsed around the stadium, it was hard not to see this as the moment of ultimate Hope.

New York Times News Service

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Californians shine under the sun

BEIJING—THE WEATHER WAS more like California than China, and Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser played like they were right at home Friday in the Olympic beach volleyball final.

In blazing sunshine at the Beijing Games venue several hundred kilometers away from a real beach, Rogers and Dalhausser won the gold medal by beating Pablo and Marcio of Brazil, 21-21, 17-21, 15-4.

Rogers and Dalhausser must have enjoyed the matter-of-fact Dalhausser, although born in Switzerland, moved to Santa Barbara, California, when he was 1. Rogers was born there and lives nearby.

The desert sand beach in the manmade Olympic facility is east of Beijing at Shunyi on the Wenyi Sea, which is best known as the Communist Party of China's summer retreat.

Dalhausser blocked four straight Brazilian shots in the deciding set to turn it into a rout.

"When he gets on a roll, I just pull out my pompoms and give a little cheer and keep smiling and singing," Rogers said. "That's what good blockers do."

The American win came today after Brent Nichols and Misty May-Treanor fought driving rain to win their second straight gold for the US veterans.

"We're in good company," Rogers said.

The sunshine and high humidity posed more problems for the 50-kilometer walkers Friday, with Alex Schwazer of Italy taking men's gold ahead of Jared Tallent of Australia in 3:37:09.

Schwazer finished in three hours, 37 minutes, 9 seconds, taking 1:28 minutes off the 20-year-old Olympic record. Irina Stlihkopyerkova of Russia, the silver medalist from the Athens Games and world record holder, took bronze.

With two-thirds of the race gone, pre-race favorite Athini Ekin of France stepped out with a hamstring injury and stomach pains.

Cracked

"I just cracked mentally and physically," Ekin said. "The conditions were very hard."

World champion Mavis Devanbergs of Latvia won the gold medal in men's BMX cycling, holding off Americans Mike Day and Donny Robinson for the title. Anne-Caroline Chausson of France took gold in the women's race.

Jet canoe and kayak finals were held, with Attila Vajda of Hungary winning the men's 1,000-meter canoe single, Tim Brabants of Britain getting gold in 1,000 kayak and Germany made up of Nicole Reinhardt, Barny Fischer, Karen Wagner-Augustin and Carola Wasmuth, winning the women's 500 kayak four.

Martin Hollstein and Andreas Ritter of Germany won gold in the men's 1,000 kayak double, brothers Andrei and Aliaksandr Bahdanovich of Belarus the men's 1,000 canoe and another Belarusian crew—Raman Piatrushenia, Aliaksei Abalmasau, Artur Litvinchuk and Vadzim Makhneu—the 1,000 kayak four.

Stripped

Off the competition fields, Lyudmila Blonska was stripped of her Olympic silver medal in the heptathlon for doping. The Ukrainian athlete was disqualified and kicked out of the Beijing Games by the International Olympic Committee after testing positive for a steroid after finishing second in the heptathlon.

She was temporarily suspended by the IOC on Thursday, and her medal was officially removed Friday. Blonska was also dropped from Friday's long jump final.

Blonska faces a lifetime ban because it was her second doping offense. She is the biggest name among the five athletes who have tested positive so far at the games.

BRAZIL'S Fabiana Luiz (left) smashes the ball past American Philip Dalhausser

Beijing 2008 SPORTS

US gets back at Russia

Battles Aussies for women's basketball gold

BEIJING—THE US WOMEN'S BASKETball team has had the 2006 world championships mark in its collective crosshairs ever since then two years.

Even with many different players on both sides, the US women avenged that loss Thursday night with a 67-52 thumping in the semifinals of the tournament at the Olympics.

Team USA used a stifling defense, a 32-23 rebounding edge and a little bit of emotion to roll into Sunday's matchup against Australia, which routed China in Thursday's second semifinal.

"It was an experience feeling taking the bronze medals back to that locker room" at the worlds, said Diana Taurasi, who led Team USA on Thursday with 21 points.

Point guard Sue Bird said the last thing the team talked about before taking the floor at the Wukesong Olympic basketball Gymnasium was that loss.

"We've waited for this for two years," she said. "It's to prove a point. A lot of people talked about that loss as proof that the rest of the world was catching up to the United States.

"For us, the first test of Oak was Russia, and it will continue to the gold medal game."

There won't be the same kind of frustration for the US team in that game, even though it's a rematch of the gold-medal game from four years ago.

Australia, which beat China, 86-56, to reach the final, likely will be short-handed as well, as center Penny Taylor missed Thursday's game with a sprained ankle. Taylor was the most valuable player at the 2006 world championships, but she was here in the quarterfinal victory over the Czech Republic at the Olympics.

Still, the US women have been singular in their drive to prove that they still have the best team in the world. They are riding a 21-game winning streak at the Olympics, dating to the 1992 Games, and have won the last three gold medals.

On Thursday, Taurasi stepped up to lead the team with 21 points, including five 3-pointers.

"It was the biggest game of the tournament and the biggest night for Diana," said Team USA coach Anne Donovan. "She's a big-time money player. The bigger the game, the better she is, and her confidence came out on every one also."

But it was the defense that won for Team USA, which before Thursday had been winning by an average of 40 points a game in the Olympics...dominance was smashed even by their trash-compactors.

They won Thursday night despite shooting just 33 percent from the field.

"That's what great teams do, they find ways to win," said Becky Hammon, a WNBA star who played for Russia. She was handcuffed by the US defense and scored just three points.

"We gave it our best effort. They're a great team that had been pounding everyone by about 35 or 40 points, so we have to take it as a moral victory. We gave it our best shot."

Russia will play China for the bronze medal on Saturday.

"Even though the outcome wasn't good, this is something that I will always hold with me," Hammon said. INTERIM Sports Service

DIANA Taurasi (right) comes up with another splendid performance for Team USA. —

OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY
MILO
The Official Energy Drink of the Philippine Team to the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	China	37	15	11	63
2	USA	14	16	11	41
3	Russia	9	10	9	28
4	Australia	8	5	4	17
5	Japan	5	3	4	12
6	South Korea	4	3	2	9
7	Italy	3	2	2	7
8	Germany	3	1	3	7
9	France	3	1	2	6
10	Great Britain	3	1	1	5
11	Ukraine	2	3	1	6
12	Netherlands	2	3	0	5
13	Cuba	2	2	3	7
14	Spain	2	2	1	5
15	Kazakhstan	2	1	1	4
16	Hungary	2	1	0	3
17	Brazil	2	0	2	4
18	Iran	2	0	0	2
19	Jamaica	1	2	1	4
20	Belarus	1	2	0	3
21	Greece	1	1	2	4
22	Slovenia	1	1	1	3
23	Ethiopia	1	1	0	2
24	Kenya	1	0	2	3
25	Croatia	1	0	1	2
26	Mexico	1	0	0	1
27	Thailand	1	0	0	1
28	Turkey	1	0	0	1
29	Colombia	0	2	0	2
30	Romania	0	1	3	4
31	Canada	0	1	2	3
32	Egypt	0	1	1	2
33	Lithuania	0	1	0	1
34	Poland	0	0	3	3
35	Serbia	0	0	2	2
36	Venezuela	0	0	1	1
37	Dominican Republic	0	0	1	1
38	Ecuador	0	0	1	1
39	Georgia	0	0	1	1
40	Moldova	0	0	1	1
41	Mongolia	0	0	1	1
42	Portugal	0	0	1	1
43	Slovakia	0	0	1	1
44	Switzerland	0	0	1	1
45	Tunisia	0	0	1	1

Journey, and all that talk, ends for Becky

BEIJING—THE STORY THAT wouldn't die may finally be dead.

All that's left to Becky Hammon's first and probably last experience at the Olympics is that inside for the Games' scandalous price, the bronze medal, on Saturday.

She once again was asked the same old questions after Thursday night's loss to the United States in the semifinals of the women's basketball tournament—in fact, she was asked more questions than most of the members of Team USA, who probably should have just holed in the locker room or gotten on the bus and gone back to the athletes' village.

Given the chance to be gracious host, Hammon was coy. She praised the US team several times, pointing out that how WNBA stars, pounding out their best WNBA season still make up the best team in the world.

"Basically, I just wanted to come on and enjoy the moment," she said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to soak it all in. It's 40 minutes, 40 minutes of your life, and even though the outcome wasn't good, it's something that I will always hold with me, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to step out there."

And then came Team USA. Given the chance to be gracious winners, they weren't.

Lisa Leslie: "I didn't speak today with Becky because for me, she was a human today."

Kara Lawson: "I could never do what she did. That is the only uniform I'll ever put on."

At least US coach Anne Donovan has quit fighting the Cold War.

"I don't have any strong thoughts on (Hammon) anymore," she said. "It took me off-guard about Becky because it hasn't happened before in women's basketball."

But there were another little dig.

"She made a great business decision (signing with a Russian professional team) and she got to play in the Olympics. She had a great run, but I'm glad we're going to the medal round." Inter Nick Pinoza News Service

NSA head resigning?

By Ted S. Malonzo

BEIJING—THERE IS DISAGREEment talk here that the head of a sports federation is headed for the exit.

The National Sports Association (NSA) is ready to sing down from his post after his sport fared considerably in the run-up to and during the Beijing Olympics.

The NSA head is said to have been approached and offered "friendly advice" recently by Philippine Sports Commission chair Jolly Gemilangan. Gemilangan's brother "Bambi" Bautista and Baraldo Ilap, Bienvenido Tumonglo, chief of mission of Team Philippines at the 2005 Olympics.

"We heard from some of the NSA head's people that he is being asked to give way to other leaders," said a delegation member, who asked not to be named.

* * *

Weeks ago, amidst special support from lawyer Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mike Arroyo is a "very close friend" of Francis Yu, the wealthy Filipino-Chinese businessman who is said to be the real power behind rookie in the country. The national works federation is headed by Julian Camacho.

* * *

"The First Gentleman probably wants Francis Yu to know that he is a friend of works as well," said a source in Team Philippines.

Arroyo came to Beijing on the invitation of Yu, the tourism has learned.

* * *

There's never a bad day as the guns in Beijing's showcase national Olympic stadium, the Bird's Nest.

As the Summer Games drew to a close, the venue of the steam-piece athletics competitions is still packed at maximum capacity due to 91,000 seats.

Refugees do not want the Olympics to go away any yet," said Dong Gangbian, a Chinese journalist who has been covering athletics as the event since last week. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to see the great stars of athletics."

Tickets to the Bird's Nest sold out a good three weeks before the Beijing Olympics opened at the new sporting venue.

Athens champion gets the boot

BEIJING—ATHENS GOLD MEDALIST Steven Lopez of the United States was upset in the quarterfinals of the men's 80-kilogram welterweight tournament Friday, losing in sudden-death overtime to Ahmet Sarmisteer of Italy.

The loss, his first since 2002, put Lopez—who also won in Sydney but at a lighter weight—out of the gold and silver medal contention. Lopez's brother Mark and sister, Diana, won a silver and a bronze on Thursday.

In a match worthy of a final, Steven Lopez fought Bulet Tamilselo of Turkey in his opening bout. The two fought for gold at Athens and though Lopez won that match, Tamilselo seem intent with a broken arm.

STEVEN Lopez's siblings Diana (bronze) and Mark (silver) show off their Olympic medals. —

After a scoreless first round, Tamilselo, a two-time world champion, scored with a roundhouse kick with 20 seconds to go in the second to take the lead. Lopez came back in the start of round three to score two points and added another to go ahead 3-1.

Tamilselo had a point disallowed just before the bell and the match ended 3-0 for Lopez.

He led 2-1 going into the final round of the three-round bout, but was scored on and then dropped a point for a penalty to go into overtime with Sarmisteer. AP

French boxer claims Filipino KO'd him

BEIJING—RAFEL LUBANCENERO, A Ukrainian featherweight and the Olympics' most counter-boxing fighter, conceded last another opponent to move one bout away from a gold medal Friday.

Cuba and Russia split two bouts to the being rounding rivalry between the sport's top two powers, with Cuban Ryeneigh Acuña's La'Hea and Russian heavyweight Rakhim Chakhkiev advancing.

After the bouts, Mark Olivija, a Romanian technical delegate from the International Boxing Association (AIBA), complained about the Olympic refereeing selection process and the sport's judging system.

AIBA disciplinary chief Ivan Vegara said the organization is looking into Olivija's list of allegations.

The afternoon's most memorable display came from Alexis Vastine, the French light welterweight who lost 12-10 to Felix Diaz of the Dominican Republic. Vastine's 9-6 lead vanished into a 10-all tie when referee Rogelio Bonilla of the Philippines hit Vastine with a two-point penalty for holding with just 18 seconds left.

VASTINE —

Vastine screamed when Bonilaza called the penalty and he collapsed into waves of tears and swelling after the bout. He stopped out of the ring and stretched out on his back on the floor before his equally tearful coach led him away.

"We all saw what happened," Vastine said through more tears. "I won this bout, but it was stolen. It was stolen."

The French team said it would protest the result, but didn't do so within the allotted time after the bout.

"The penalty was good, and they should have called it earlier," Diaz said. "He was holding all day."

Diaz will face Winner Bovenkoorsing of Thailand in light welterweight. The Athens gold medalist frustrated Daniel Iglesias of Cuba in a fight that left both boxers complaining of bad play.

Bovenkoorsing, whose hooky-jooky style is as hard to replicate as it is to execute, stoned his arms in celebration after just two rounds. AP

IN THIS ISSUE
San Miguel seen bidding for PNOC-EC /B2
DA presses for release of promised P4-B fund /B3

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Korean firm banned for rigging RP project

World Bank finds evidence of widespread corruption

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK HAS blacklisted a Korean construction firm for involvement in "fraudulent" and "corrupt" practices during the initial phase of a major Philippine road project the multilateral lender is financing.

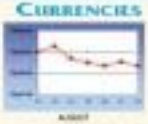
The World Bank announced yesterday that it has banned Dongyang Construction Co. Ltd. (Dongyang) from any World Bank-financed contract in any country during the next four years.

"Through an in-depth questioning and qualitative analysis of the procurement process that the firm participated in as well as numerous interviews, investigators uncovered evidence of Dongyang's involvement in widespread 'bid-rigging'," the bank said in a statement.

The Philippines' national roads improvement and management program (NRMP), become controversial in November last year when the World Bank ordered talks for the second

A2/B4 S1

Currencies



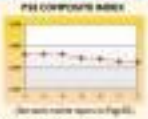
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.69 = $1

as of 5 p.m., August 22, 2008

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Get more market specs on Page B2.

Stocks close lower

SHARES CLOSED 0.34 PERCENT LOWER yesterday due to a lack of good news and signs of tough conditions for listed companies for the rest of the year, dealers said.

The composite index fell 3.74 points to 2,853.14 points. The all-share index fell 0.22 percent to 1,847.64 points.

"There were 87 gainers compared to 48 losers, while 68 counters were unchanged. Volume amounted to 556.8 million shares worth ₱1.38 billion.

"It really called for a lot of conviction to see really organized a comeback this week," said Claudia Acosta of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"They just finished the first semester earnings reports and there were good performers and not-so-good performers and they were all saying they would be experiencing the same difficulties," for the rest of the year, she said.

"We are just waiting for good news. There's no big developments yet," she added.

Index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell 0.58 percent to ₱2,880 while its rival Globe Telecom dropped 0.8 percent to ₱1,500.

San Miguel Corp. saw its "A" shares fall 1.08 percent to ₱84.80 while its "B" shares were unchanged at ₱48. AFP

Group earmarks ₱4.2B to redevelop Subic golf course

By Rommel W. Domingo

A KOREAN-AND-FILIPINO JOINT VENTURE yesterday announced it has committed $48 million or about ₱2.2 billion for the redevelopment of the Subic golf course, with "full country club amenities" planned.

Benjamin Allan Belmonte, president and chief executive of Hanjell Golf & Tour Inc., said in a statement the firm teamed to turn the 18-hole golf course into an all-weather championship course.

Hanjell won a public bidding for the project held earlier this year, after the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority took over the operation of the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club last year.

SBMA had terminated the lease agreement of the previous operator due to the latter's ballooning debts that rose to some ₱150 million.

Belmonte said Hanjell's commitments included putting up additional nine holes, building a hotel and some villas, and improving the driving range at the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club.

He explained that the project, scheduled for completion within six years, would be phased after club members requested that the existing 18 holes be kept open.

"The Koreans would have to be reoriented from country and some of the locals would have to relocated," he said.

Belmonte said Hanjell has retained the services of some 70 workers and plans to hire more local workers for construction and re-development activities.

SBMA Administrator Armand C. Arreza said there were two other leisure complexes that would be built in the Subic Bay Freeport area within the next five years.

These are Korea Fitz Seaview's golf course and resort project on a 400-hectare site in Subic's Redondo Peninsula and re-

B4/B1

San Miguel group seen bidding for PNOC-EC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

SAN MIGUEL CORP., THROUGH ITS energy-related unit, is keen on buying the government's 40-percent stake in PNOC Exploration Corp., the oil and gas exploration arm of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co., as it continues to pursue new sectors of growth outside of its core food and beverage business.

"That's a good one. That's a jewel. That's the crown jewel of PNOC because they own the gas and oil fields," said San Miguel vice chair and president Ramon S. Ang.

Ang said San Miguel would likely to participate in the bidding for the stake should the government push through with a planned sale this year, depending on stock market conditions.

"We will participate, we will try again," Ang said.

Ang added that San Miguel might likely participate on its own or tell

Gov't sale expected in 4th quarter

to a potential partner depending on the terms of the bidding.

"It depends on the project, we can invite a lot but it depends on what's the best term (for the project)," he said.

The government has announced its plans to sell 40 percent of PNOC-EC, which investment banks widely expected to take place before the year ends as the outlook on the stock market becomes more positive.

Established in 1976, PNOC-EC is a oil and gas exploration arm tasked to search for indigenous sources of energy. It has a 30-percent share in the Malampaya gas field in offshore Palawan.

Last year, the Department of Finance said it expected the sale of a 40-percent stake in PNOC-EC to fetch at least P6 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said that their there were no definite plans yet on how to go about PNOC-EC's privatization, but this should take place within 2008.

San Miguel earlier agreed to team up with US asset management group Investcorp Asia to bid for 60 percent of PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), the geothermal arm of PNOC.

However, the joint asset went to the Lopez-controlled First Gen Corp. consortium, which submitted the highest bid.

San Miguel previously announced plans to invest about $750 million, equivalent to a tenth of its assets, in new businesses such as power generation and renewables, mining and infrastructure.

ICTSI eyes port in Argentina

By Riza T. Olchondra

ICTSI PORT OPERATOR INTERnational Container Terminal Services Ltd. is a step closer to investing in a development project at the Port of La Plata in Argentina.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ICTSI said it was invited to invest in the port terminal by Ricardo Raul Romero of Logistica S.A., the original project proponent.

The Philippine company said its participation was "subject to compliance with government and administrative approvals and other terms and conditions."

"ICTSI Ltd. will make the appropriate disclosures once the conditions precedent for its investment and participation in the project are complied with," the Harris-led company said.

The new terminal is located along the River Plate, "just outside and south of Buenos Aires."

In March this year, ICTSI allocated P8.22 billion to finance domestic and foreign port expansion projects. The funding will come from the company's total retained earnings of P18.19 billion as of 2007.

In 2007, ICTSI posted a net income of P2.79 billion. This was a 32-percent surge from P1.84 billion in 2006.

Revenues increased 27 percent to P10 billion from P7.85 billion. Foreign operations accounted for 49 percent of ICTSI's consolidated gross revenues.

A VIEW of ICTSI's modern port facilities.

Much of the revenue growth came from new port operations in Rosarito, China, Iloilo, Georgia and in Brunei, combined with organic growth in purchased and operational terminals in Brazil, Madagascar, Poland and Manila.

Manila Water to issue ₱3-B bonds

MANILA WATER CO., THE WATER utility firm of Ayala Corp., is planning to raise funds through a P3-billion bond offer.

Manila Water legal and corporate governance officer Jessel Austria said the peso bonds would have a term of five years and one day from the issue date, with a fixed interest rate which has yet to be set, and could be redeemed at face value only on maturity date in 2013.

"The peso bond is to finance East Zone projects, such as water expansion to the eastern part of Rizal [province], and wastewater [projects]," Manila Water chief finance officer Sherisa Nuesa said.

The Ayala group's water distribution arm early said its net income of P1.35 billion in the first half of the year was up 21 percent from the same period in 2007.

The company, which holds the water concession for the eastern zone of Metro Manila, said the year's increases were largely the result of its P20-billion capital investment program, which it said allowed it to expand and improve its delivery of water and wastewater services.

It said revenues grew in P4.3 billion from P3.5 billion. Overall operating cost grew 2.6 percent.

Manila Water said it connected 25,000 new customers in the first half of the year, largely in its eastern zone areas in Cainta, Taytay and Antipolo City. It said those additions contributed to a 6-percent increase in billed water volume.

It said it brought down "non-revenue water"—water lost to leaks and pilferage—by 43 percentage points from a high of 63 percent of total water supply 12 years ago.

Manila Water also recently won a $15-million water supply development and management contract in Ho Chi Minh City.

The five-year contract issued by Saigon Water Corp. is Manila Water's maiden project in Vietnam.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

Korean firm banned for rigging RP project

From page B1

phase due to signs of bid-rigging in the procurement of two road contracts as early as 2002. The World Bank provided $150 million in funding for the first phase of the project, which closed in March 2007.

Two further rounds of bidding in 2004 and 2006 revealed similar signs and were also rejected.

The anti-graft agency colluding companies demonstrates that efforts to combat corruption are working and sends a strong signal across the private sector. Building more and better roads to ensure trust is critical for development in the Philippines. But it is a critical ingredient against corruption," World Bank country director Bert Hofman said.

The World Bank's internal investigative unit (INT) concluded that in the first phase of the program, a cartel of nominees had engaged in corrupt and collusive practices in three rounds of bidding, manifesting corruption in road construction and inflating prices by as much as 30 percent.

But the World Bank agreed last May to proceed with the NRMP and provide a $232-million funding for the next phase—only after tighter safeguards were put in place to prevent the recurrence of collusion and bid rigging.

"NRMP is now in its second phase and includes stringent safeguards and conditions, such as the use of an independent procurement evaluator and independent oversight by civil society, in part because of what the [World Bank] investigations of [the road project] revealed," Hofman said.

Dangwa, for its part, did not contest accusations brought against it during the World Bank's administrative sanctions proceedings. Under the sanctions procedures, when a respondent like Dangwa chooses not to contest the accusations against it within 30 days, the recommended sanction will be implemented.

World Bank integrity vice president Leonard McCarthy said: "EC-

Firm earmarks P4.2B to redevelop Subic . . .

From page B1

sidies in Morong town in Bataan, which is being considered as a resort and reinvention complex.

Arenas said the three golf courses would be located in such a way that they would not compete with each other, but instead ensure adequate facilities for the growing number of golf enthusiasts and existing professional players.

According to SBMA's legal impediment, the Subic golf course redevelopments was pushing through considering that the Regional Trial Court in Olongapo City has affirmed the validity of the SBMA takeover last year.

This was a repeat of a takeover of the golf facility in 1997 due to the failure of the previous operator to honor its development commitments, which the Supreme Court upheld in a 2000 ruling, SBMA said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 22, 2008)

Stock Name	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
MINING					
Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	1,000
Benguet Corp. 'A'	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Benguet Corp. 'B'	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. 'A'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. 'B'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Nickel Asia Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Philex Mining Corp. 'A'	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philex Mining Corp. 'B'	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OIL					
Basic Energy Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Oriental Petroleum & Minerals Corp. 'A'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Oriental Petroleum & Minerals Corp. 'B'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Petron Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Petron Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Philippine Oil Development Co.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Philippine Oil Development Co. 'A'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Philippine Oil Development Co. 'B'	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Unioil Resources Holdings, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
A. Soriano Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Ayala Land, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Ayala Land, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Ayala Land, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Century Properties Group, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Century Properties Group, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cityland Development Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cityland Development Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Cityland Development Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Crown Asia Properties Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Crown Asia Properties Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Crown Asia Properties Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Filinvest Land, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Filinvest Land, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Global-Estate Resorts, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Global-Estate Resorts, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Global-Estate Resorts, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Megaworld Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Megaworld Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Metro Pacific Investments Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Metro Pacific Investments Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Phil. Estates Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Phil. Estates Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Phil. Estates Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Robinsons Land Corp. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Robinsons Land Corp. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Shang Properties, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Shang Properties, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Shang Properties, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
SERVICES					
Alliance Global Group, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Alliance Global Group, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Alliance Global Group, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Brewery, Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Brewery, Inc. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Brewery, Inc. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'A'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'B'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'C'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'D'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'E'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'F'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'G'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'H'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'I'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'J'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'K'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'L'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'M'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'N'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'O'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'P'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'Q'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'R'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'S'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'T'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'U'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'V'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'W'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'X'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'Y'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'Z'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AD'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AR'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AS'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AT'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AV'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AW'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AX'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AY'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'AZ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BD'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BR'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BS'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BT'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BV'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BW'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BX'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BY'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'BZ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CD'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CR'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CS'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CT'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CV'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CW'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CX'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CY'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'CZ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DD'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DR'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DS'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DT'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DV'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DW'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DX'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DY'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'DZ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'ED'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'ER'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'ES'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'ET'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EV'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EW'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EX'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EY'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'EZ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FA'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FB'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FC'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FD'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FE'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FF'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FG'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FH'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FI'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FJ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FK'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FL'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FM'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FN'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FO'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FP'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FQ'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FR'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FS'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FT'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. 'FU'	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1

DA presses for release of promised ₱4-B fund

By Michelle V Remy

Agri officials cite urgent need to improve farm yield

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture has requested for the immediate release of the ₱4-billion, which President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier promised to maintain her projects related to improving farm production.

In her last State of the Nation Address, the President had said that her administration would allocate ₱4 billion out of its income from Malampaya Natural Gas Project for the farm sector.

The DA renewed its request through the Department of Finance.

DOF officials will then certify that the funds are available so that the budget department may release the money.

The funds will go a long way in helping improve food supply in the country, the DA said in a paper presented during a developmental forum held last Wednesday between government agencies, managers and officials of various lending institutions.

The government has a 40-percent share in the net proceeds from Malampaya's sale of natural gas.

The remaining 40 percent is the share of a private sector consortium.

Net proceeds is the difference between gross proceeds and the recoverable cost of capital.

Estimates by the DOF showed that Malampaya's recoverable cost of capital has dwindled over the years, thereby increasing the net proceeds to be shared by the government and the private sector consortium.

From an average of 70 percent of gross proceeds in 2003 to 2005, the share of recoverable cost of capital already declined to 28 percent since 2007, according to DOF computations.

Because of this, the government was able to generate ₱4 billion in additional income from Malampaya, an amount that had remained unappropriated since the President's State of the Nation Address.

During that event, Ms Arroyo said the money would be set aside for the farm sector.

The country is now in the grips of high food inflation.

Prices of food, including rice, had been registering record highs in the past months because of increasing demand and steep rise in the cost of fuel, which is an input for fertilizers and pesticides.

The DA, however, said it has implemented programs to help boost farm output and temper the escalation of food prices.

Led by food prices, overall inflation hit 12.2 percent in July from a year ago, the fastest pace in 17 years.

Included in the programs is the fertilizer subsidy for farmers.

In the presentation, the agriculture department said that it had distributed discount coupons to farmers through various local government units.

The discount amounts to ₱250 per bag of fertilizer.

Other projects include the rehabilitation of a number of irrigation facilities, productivity training and education for farmers, and cheap loans for agricultural workers who want to avail themselves of modern farming technology.

The Philippines is only 92.38 percent self-sufficient in rice.

This means that 7.62 percent of the country's rice requirements is being shipped in from abroad.

The government has set a goal of making the country 100-percent self-sufficient in rice over the medium term.

To do this, economic managers said, the government would have to beef up its spending for the agriculture sector.

BSP OKs state bank's loan for green projects

By Doris C. Dorian

THE STATE-OWNED BANK DEVELOPMENT of the Philippines has secured the finegle licensed up Filipinos' approval as small of a P16.1-billion soft loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund environment-related projects.

The loan is part of the DBP's P35-billion pipeline for issues and other "green" projects, which will be channeled to sub-borrowers.

Sources from the DBP said that the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the DBP loan last Thursday.

The Monetary Board reviews all borrowings made by the public and private sectors. The money used to repay the loans will be sourced from the local banking system.

A date when the agreement with JBIC is expected to be finalized in two months, DBP sources said.

The loan is part of the 275th yen loan package from Japan. Part of the funds will be granted to borrowers who are on projects deals energy resources and support industrial pollution control.

Also, the DBP has finalized with JBIC another P4-billion loan for "clear modernization development" projects, which shall likewise support new and renewable energy projects.

Meanwhile, DBP reported a 27 percent drop to first-semester net profits given the industry-wide decline in treasury earnings amid turbulence local and global financial markets.

The bank's net income during the six-month period amounted to P1.51 billion from almost P2 billion a year ago.

In an interview, DBP president Reynaldo David said the bank's assets were rapidly growing, funded by deposits. But income from treasury holdings and trading operations had weighed down overall earnings.

He noted that treasury activities accounted for half of the bank's total business.

Interest income went up by 7% percent to P2 billion, as an 18 percent expansion in interest on small loans compensated for the 20-percent decline in earnings from subsidiaries.

On the treasury side, foreign exchange profits dropped by 53 percent. The bank is to cook a harder hit on trading of securities, where losses increased by 123 percent.

One area that showed a strong performance, however, was the trust business, where the bank's net earnings jumped by 40 percent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, operating expenses expanded as a modest pace of 3.4 percent year-on-year.

VALUE OF SAVING
Citibank employees help children through a creative activity at the Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Citibank, the Philippine Business for Social Progress and the Museo Pambata Foundation recently entered into a partnership agreement to help promote the value of saving among children.

PSALM prepays $219M worth of Napocor debts

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO FURTHER CUT National Power Corp.'s debt, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. last prepaid $219 million of its loans (firm's loans).

In a statement yesterday, PSALM said that round of prepayments covered dollar- and yen-denominated debts worth $1.06 million and 10.2 billion yen, respectively.

These loans were extended by the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the 600-megawatt (MW) Mindoro coal-fired power plant that PSALM sold last year.

This $219-million loan prepayment was PSALM's third for this year.

In June, PSALM prepaid 27.2 billion yen (around $260 million) of Napocor's debts, representing Tranche B of the Mipanam yen-denominated loans extended by the Japanese government in 1979.

The loan was utilized for construction of a number of transmission projects, which were then under Napocor's jurisdiction.

Prior to that prepayment, PSALM in March also prepaid three of Napocor's yen-denominated loans worth 16,887 billion yen, or around $174 million.

These loans were extended in 1990 and 1993 by the JBIC-Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, also for transmission projects.

"The total prepayment to date has contributed significantly on reducing Napocor's debt obligation from $7.03 billion as of end-2007 to $5 billion. The successful prepayment was made possible through the support provided by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which retained the ninety percentage of the peso earned," PSALM vice president for the Finance Lourdes Alarilla said.

PSALM capital markets and risk management department manager Ferdinand Rosendo said that aside from savings on interest payments and guarantee fees, "the prepayment resulted in the Philippine peso exchange debt by 4 percent and increased the peso component of the debt currency risk by 2 percent to 73 percent."

Meralco questions legal basis of planned COA audit

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. IS questioning the legal basis of the Commission on Audit's planned probe of its books, since it is alleged is not based on a Supreme Court order but on the request of the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

"If you allow that, then anybody else can just do that," he told the Inquirer. "Anybody can just call for an audit of any private company."

He said Meralco was now preparing its response to a letter from Energy Regulatory Commission chair Zenaida Cruz-Ducut, which advised the power distributor to take the matter up directly with COA.

The ERC also recommended that Meralco reconsider its decision not to have its books scrutinized since this was explicitly stated in a December 2008 Supreme Court decision.

"We're preparing a letter to respond to that," Jacob said. "Actually we want to talk to the ERC. They know that the COA was responding to the request of Napocor for an audit. We attached a copy of COA's letter to us when we wrote the ERC."

In a statement, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Eipi Cana said Meralco was ready to be audited by the COA, but for the right reasons.

"We are ready and willing to allow the COA to conduct an audit on our books and accounts pursuant to the SC decision on Meralco's unbundling case," Cana said. "However, the company believes that any such audit must be made only for the purpose of ensuring that the rates being charged by the company strictly comply with those approved by the ERC in its unbundling decision.

He added that based on ERC records, "the COA had been given sufficient opportunity to participate during the hearings of the company's unbundling application, which lasted for more than three years, for the purpose of examining its books, accounts and assets, and did the ERC in arriving at Meralco's unbundled rates. Therefore, any COA audit at this point in time may not be made in a manner that would effectively reopen the ERC decision on Meralco's unbundling application."

Cana was referring to an April 2009 COA letter to the ERC, where the agency begged off from undertaking the audit, saying that the action "was not one of the mandated functions of the commission."

"Why the sudden double-talk now in audit Meralco, when there has not been any amendment to the decision or omission with regard to the jurisdiction of the COA?" Cana said.

Abigail L. Ho

Regulator eases loan procedures for small traders

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, SMALL-scale enterprises may continue to enjoy simplified procedures when seeking bank loans.

The Monetary Board, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas's policy-making body, approved on Thursday the extension of a policy that relaxes bank lending requirements for small enterprises, particularly the exemption of waiver of income tax returns (ITRs).

Micro-enterprises, or those with assets of P3 million or less, have always been exempted from the ITR requirement. But the privilege was expanded to include small-scale enterprises, or those with assets not exceeding P15 million.

The two-year effectivity of the simplified procedures was scheduled to lapse this year, but the BSP agreed to extend it for three more years.

The transitory nature of the exemption was meant to provide funding leeway for small borrowers.

But the BSP hopes that, eventually, the small borrowers will learn to file their financial statements and ITRs.

It was the Bureau of Internal Revenue that earlier requested the BSP to issue a circular requiring banks to submit the ITR, or locate the government's efforts to expand the country's tax base.

However, the waiver of ITR requirements for small-scale industries was among the measures proposed by the Export Development Council for the 2008 national competitiveness summit, which was meant to ease credit flow in the country.

Difficulty in getting credit was among the factors seen to contribute to the country's poor global ranking in ease of doing business.

Under the International Finance Corp.-World Bank's annual survey on doing business, access to credit is consistently rated by firms as one of the greatest barriers to operations and growth.

Doris C. Dorian

COMPETITIVENESS SCALE

Group says RP can join ranks of top economies

By Roonel N. Clarraga

THE PHILIPPINES MAY BE BACK among the top one-third economies of the world within five years, particularly if efforts to create a favorable environment for business continue, according to the National Competitiveness Council.

NCC co-chair Cesar B. Bautista said the story of Philippine competitiveness and the progress made in the past three years showed "tremendous potential" for the country.

"The way forward is to capitalize the country's leadership position in quite clear but it is a matter of having the wherewithal to accomplish the ongoing programs," Bautista said.

He said improvements in the country's competitiveness had been made possible in part through the help of various development sponsors like Millennium Challenge Corp.

The Philippines' global ranking based on studies by the Swiss-based Institute for Management Development, which comes out with the yearly World Competitiveness Yearbook, indicates that the country has been gradually recovering from being to the bottom-third.

Bautista said that PCC, to which the NEC's local partner Asian Institute of Management Policy Center helps, also showed that the Philippines enjoyed robustness in the second half of the 1990s.

Due to political and economic turmoil, however, the Philippines' competitiveness ranking dropped to 58th in 2006 to a low of 92nd in 2004.

The ranking fortunately improved from 69th in 2008 to 48th in the latest WCY issued earlier this year.

Bautista attributed the recovery to the combined efforts of the government and the private sector in improving social services, upgrading infrastructure and increasing job opportunities.

"With the recent improvement of the Philippines' standing in the 2009 World Competitiveness rankings, the NCC urges for further actions to further boost what is facing the global business environment and how the country can make use of the newly achieved development," he said.

Bautista said the NCC also aims to attract within two years investments that would drive 20-percent growth in export earnings and up to 4-percent growth in gross domestic product.

Bautista earlier called on the government to scale down business taxes to a level comparable with those in other Southeast Asian countries to help perk up investments.

He cited another study—made by the World Bank, International Finance Corp. and PricewaterhouseCoopers—called "Paying Taxes 2009" which showed the country ranked 120th of 178 countries in terms of overall business tax burden.

The study said the Philippines had a total business tax burden of 33.8 percent, which is an aggregate of corporate income tax (25.3 percent), labor tax (10 percent) and other taxes (17.4 percent).

Also, the study ranked the Philippines 126th in terms of ease of paying taxes, with it first making 136 tax payment transactions and taking 484 hours to comply.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: sc_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor: Cesar D. Mangosong

Text in your feedback: Inquirer free service/load/promo to 2237 (Globe) or 183 (Smart)

Doc with psoriasis sees it as a chance to educate people

By Dea S. Santamaya

PSORIASIS IS NOT CONTAGIOUS, stresses Dr. Anna Gracia Garcia, a dermatologist at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and an active member of psoriasis support group Psorphil.

Garcia not only knows what she is talking about, not only by virtue of her being a doctor, but also because she, herself, was diagnosed two years ago to have psoriasis, a skin condition characterized by red scaly patches of thickened skin and scalp.

Dry, red patches

In an interview with the Inquirer, Garcia explains that psoriasis happens when skin cells are stimulated to multiply in huge numbers rapidly resulting in dry red skin patches.

These patches primarily affect the scalp before other body parts such as the knees, elbow and lower back. In her case, Garcia relates that the "first patches appeared on my elbow and scalp."

Conditions may also range from mild, that people may not even know they have it, to severe, wherein psoriasis virtually covers the entire body.

Genetic makeup, other factors

Though the exact cause of psoriasis remains unknown, Garcia explains that most of the factors being considered, according to Garcia, a child has a 10 percent chance of acquiring psoriasis if only one parent has it. The possibility of acquiring the disease, however, increases to 35 percent if both parents have it.

Other factors could also trigger a psoriasis attack, such as stress, infection (any form but the most common is sore throat), skin trauma and skin abrasions, she adds.

"There are periodic ups and downs but no one knows when it will actually manifest. Sometimes psoriasis may clear for years and may re-emerge. While there is no known cure for psoriasis, there are different treatment modalities to control it but those are quite costly," Garcia says.

DR. GARCIA

Lifetime disease

She further explains that psoriasis is considered a long-term skin condition or a lifetime disease.

"Psoriasis can be seen in people of any race, gender and age but there are two peaks of occurrence — at an early age of 20-30 years and at 50-60 years," she states.

Garcia discloses that in the Philippines there are about 1.76 million individuals with psoriasis but most of them are in hiding, especially if the disease is active, because of shame and emotional distress.

"We a country like ours that values good skin...more visible to coursework and the different treatments for skin including whitening lotions—leaving psoriasis can be emotionally, physically, psychologically and financially draining," she says.

Garcia admits that she, too, was in denial at first and had to consult a colleague to confirm for her that she, indeed, has psoriasis.

As a dermatologist, she never didn't come easy for her. "It was more that just devastating that I used to myself how ironic that someone like me, a dermatologist would have psoriasis," Garcia relates.

She likewise feared losing her job. "I said to myself, how will I entertain my patients if I have this condition, they may not want to consult a dermatologist who has psoriasis."

Chance to educate people

Garcia relates that she felt the need to discuss it with her husband and her children, who may have a slim chance of acquiring it. Talking to her family—including her siblings—about her condition served as an awakening for her.

"Instead of looking at the disease as a burden, I took it as a chance to educate people, like my family. They should also be aware of it because it's probably in their genes and they might have it in the future," she explains.

"It's because of these diseases that you get the opportunity to meet people with the same condition and learn to draw strength from each other," Dr. Garcia says.

"Psoriasis is just a skin disease and it doesn't make one less of a person. It only affects your skin and there are many people out there who have the same condition as you," she assures the public.

She also encourages people with psoriasis "to not be ashamed to come out—it's best that people with psoriasis see a doctor so they can get the necessary assistance."

Right now, Garcia says she is in touch happy to see various support groups for people with psoriasis, particularly in Asian Hospital and Medical Center, UST Hospital and Makati Medical Center.

There are also private support groups such as Psorphil according to Dr. Garcia. "These groups help bring back the social life of people with psoriasis to normal and help them regain their confidence."

A doping story

DISCOVER

Marosie Suarez-Ballon

The case was fairly straightforward: A racehorse had tested positive for caffeine doping, but the owner insisted the animal was clean. The owner suspected that the urine sample for his horse had been switched or tampered with, and asked the researchers to confirm that the sample had come from the animal in the first place.

Lead author Silvina Diaz and her colleagues collected blood and hair samples from the horse themselves, and then matched them against the then 3-month-old positive urine sample through DNA tests. The tests proved the horse's owner was right: as he'd suspected, the genetic information in the blood and hair samples taken from his horse matched each other. However, neither of the samples matched the DNA in the urine sample.

Manipulation of samples

Diaz and her colleagues wondered if there just wasn't enough DNA in the urine sample to make a match; after all, only a third of urine samples collected provide enough useful DNA for testing. But they also considered if the positive urine sample had come from a horse in the first place.

Ruling the latter theory, the scientists conducted another series of tests to determine the species that had provided the urine sample compared to horse and human controls. The result of their analyses: the caffeinated sample in the doping case was indeed from a human.

"To conclusion," Diaz and her colleagues wrote in their paper, "we demonstrated that the alleged horse urine was of a human origin, indicating the manipulation of samples. This evidence supports the innocence of the breeder suspected of horse doping."

So the horse is innocent, and the jockey the owner is vindicated. Diaz and her colleagues don't mention what happened then, but presumably the police would have gotten involved in the search for the person or persons responsible for switching the racehorse's original urine sample with that of a human. Still, one has to wonder how easy it would be to make a list of potential suspects based on the description of a racehorse's human-hanging around the racetrack.

E-mail the author at msuarez@inquirer.com

WITH JUST A FEW DAYS LEFT BEFORE the Beijing Olympics come to an end, only a handful of athletes standing have tested positive for performance-enhancing substances. A cyclist from Spain, a handler from Greece and a gymnast from Vietnam are among those who have either been sent home or are being up to the Olympic motto of "faster, higher, stronger" on their marks.

Perhaps the small number of violations is due to increased scrutiny and regulation over drug doping—over 4,500 blood and urine samples from Olympic athletes are being collected and tested at Game Games.

Competitive animals must abide by anti-doping regulations of their own, and an equine version of the test is used to check for the presence of banned substances such as steroids and caffeine. Because the latter is a stimulant, it can reduce the horse's feelings of fatigue and make it more alert, giving it an edge in competition even if the animal's not having a particularly good day.

Horse-doping case

In the July 3 issue of the Journal of Forensic Science, researchers from Argentina's National University of La Plata reported on a horse-racing case of drug doping they were asked to investigate.

Knowing hypertension in depth for doctors

By Rafael S. Castillo

DURING HER TERM AS president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH), the indefatigable Dr. Esperanza "Espie" Cabral, who is now DOH3 secretary, initiated an in-depth course on hypertension, wherein participants are taught and updated on everything there is to know on hypertension—from the basic to the latest trends in diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

MEDICAL FILES

Encouraged by the positive feedback in its first five years, the PSH is once again originating its risk specialists course in hypertension on Sept. 10-Oct. 12 at the PSH auditorium in University of the Philippines-Manila. Dubbed as "the school for all doctors—from primary care physicians to the supercardiologists—who treat patients with high blood pressure. The course is now ready and is currently chaired by Dr. Romeo Hemingway.

Even specialists who have been in practice for many years already realize that the field of hypertension, just like any field in medicine, has a constantly changing landscape and a medical practitioner must be abreast with the latest developments in their particular field. The PSH specialist course provides the forum for this, thanks to hypertension is concerned.

Even those physicians who have used the 4-day scientific program say that it is one of the most comprehensive, ever courses in hypertension one can find with the latest trends and what's still have to shell out a lot of dollars or euro if one were to attend a similar course with the same content either in the United States or Europe. Due are assured of the quality of the posting only by the cost of individuals and other expenses incurred by the course, and moreover its big.

Hypertension scholars

Actually for deserving doctors, who may find the registration fee still exorbitant, a grant in the form of a full scholarship is offered to sponsor them as hypertension scholars. What is only asked of them is that they attend the four-day course up to the very last session, and immediately put to good use whatever they have learned in their patients with high blood pressure. This course is already viewed as mandatory by the doctors with updated knowledge on how best to treat their hypertension patients. The main beneficiaries of the course are really the patients with high blood pressure, particularly difficult-to-treat cases.

Interested physicians may call the secretariat at 521-7870 or text 0917-6258450. Openings for the hypertension scholars in this course are Theophilous Tiongson, Glaiza Estelle Elose, Ma. Magdalena Bonifacio-Jugol, Jenn Philippines, Unit Functional, Co Pharmaceuticals and Imcopes Pharma.

The current officers of the PSH are Doctors Abdias Aquino (vice president), Jaime Morales (secretary), Romeo Hemingway (treasurer), Tommy Ty-Willing, Lynn Gomez, Vicente Tantoco (trustees), and Sol Soto, Abcherin (immediate past president).

Radio program

For single have heard them clinically on radio. Some top hyper specialists from the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) are not only giving lectures to lay forums organized in various parts of the country. They're reaching out to a wider base of the population by co-hosting DWBM-Interaksyon's "Magtanong Ka Doc, Doc," which is anchored by Dr. Willie Gomez every other Thursday, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

They started on July 10 this year and will be on air twice monthly up to June 2009. You can catch them on the succeeding dates: Sept. 4, 18; Oct. 2, 16, 30; Nov. 13, 27; Dec. 4, 18; Jan. 6, 22, 2009; Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 5, 19; Apr. 2, 16, 30; May 7, 21; and June 11, 25.

Better understanding

Phoned-in questions or inquiries through text will be accommodated during the broadcast. We are happy to relate to the listeners that this opportunity to ask questions to more for better understanding of one's cardiovascular problems, and not as a substitute for the doctor-patient relationship with one's family physician.

The hour-long segment will discuss various topics about heart diseases and will give practical pointers on how to prevent them. I'm sure these pointers will translate into healthier hearts for those who listen to them regularly and may even lead to fewer visits to one's favored medical habit. For sure, it can possibly save them from getting disabled by a serious heart attack or stroke.

The current PHA officers are Doctors Ma. Belen Carlos (president), Maita Teresa Abola (vice president), Eleanor Lopez Gervasyo, Isabelo Orgilango (treasurer), Constantino Javier, Virginia Reyes, Joel Abanilla (directors) and Efren Ocampo (immediate past president). Ms. Perla Feliciano, ACMM station manager, is also in the PHA board as vice president for external affairs and he's done a lot to advance the advocacy programs of the PHA.

Dealing with a mysterious brain condition

By Charlie E. Bobo

SELF-DESCRIBED "MIRACLE MAN" William Abbott looked healthy when he met this writer for the first time since he was operated on for stereotactic amygdalotomy two years ago.

"It was in October 2006 when I first experienced a strange 'attack' wherein one of my mouths contorted involuntarily, my lips drooped, my neck jerked involuntarily and my speech slurred. Me and my wife thought I was having a stroke," remembered the 68-year-old ordained minister.

The couple were both wrong, however, as they later found out that what Abbott experienced was an epileptic seizure and worse, there would be more of it in succeeding days. Later, it was the left brain section of his brain pulled through.

Surgical operation became Abbott's best option. The following month, he became the first Filipino to undergo the procedure and one of the very few in the Philippines to be subjected to stereotactic radiosurgery. Abbott, who kept media and concerned throughout the 3-hour procedure, is a resource to significant part of his memory.

The delicate operation was necessary because the tumor is located in the brain area that plays a role in language comprehension and production. If the tumor removed in going too dangerous, Abbott would be signaling the doctor through sudden changes while speaking.

Successful

The surgery proved a success since the remaining part of the tumor that was left intact (embossed) which could result from irreversible brain damage with subsequent loss of vision function) is no longer growing.

At the moment Abbott is under maintenance therapy with an anticonvulsant or anti-epileptic medication, Tegretol (anticonvulsant medication used by Neurologists to address the postoperative epileptic seizure that he still experiences from time to time.

Dr. Fernando Legaspi, associate professor in the University of the Philippines College of Medicine who led the team who operated on Abbott at The Medical City, explained that his patient may not have to take medication for the rest of his life.

A study has shown that about two-thirds of adults who had been seizure-free for two years and about three-quarters of adults who had been seizure-free for three years were able to stop taking their medication.

"Many people only need medication for a limited time, usually a few years. Controlling epileptic seizures is important because repeated epileptic activity may further damage surrounding tissues (and brain) according from surgery," he stressed.

Misunderstood

Indeed, epileptic seizures is often misunderstood in the Philippines, an estimated 750,000 people suffer from epilepsy, majority of them children if not adults in the most productive years of their life.

"Today we know that epileptic seizures result from a disruption of normal electrical activity within the brain. The cause can be disease, brain damage, or abnormal development of the brain. However, no cause can be determined for about three-quarters of the cases of epilepsy," Legaspi explained.

Because epilepsy has so many causes and can be linked to a number of other conditions, it is sometimes very difficult to determine the cause of a particular case.

But while epileptic seizures often happen without warning and can take many forms, ranging from mild to severe and imminent, epilepsy can be well managed in majority of cases.

"Epilepsy is a condition that cannot be ignored but one can still lead a normal and productive life. It should not be a reason to remove yourself from the joys and responsibilities of daily living. People with epilepsy can work, be with children, go out with friends, play sports, as well as have meaningful relationships, including marriage," said Abbott who is active in charity projects for the underprivileged and even joins mountain-climbing expeditions.

In short, there is very little in life that people with epilepsy cannot pursue even living.

What to do

So what should you do when you encounter someone having a seizure?

"Try to stay calm and don't be afraid to assist. Remember, epilepsy is a condition, not a disease, so it is not contagious in any way," said Legaspi who added to note the time and to check how long the duration of the seizure.

Moving objects, such as furniture away from the person could also be helpful if there is a risk of injury.

"Do not restrain the individual if they are in a dangerous place, for example, at the top of stairs or on the road. One condition put something soft (like a pillow) under their head as pressure is being applied to the ground.

Legaspi reminded not to restrain the individual, put anything in their mouth (as there is no danger of them swallowing their tongue during the seizure) or give them other people from crowding around.

PROPERTY

Edited by Cesar D. Mangosing

KAMAYAN! Cane's Mango grove is an ideal outing for family gatherings and various activities—a tree house, an amphitheater, a children's playground are only some of the exclusive activity areas found in this mango-shaded escape.

Developers making 'green' mark on environment

By Tess R. Salazar

ENVIRONMENTAL EXperts have noted that property-related developments account for 38 percent—or over one-third—of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the world, making them (along with the transportation and production industries) among the main drivers of global warming and contributors to extreme weather conditions.

In the United States, for example, the building industry has made the highest impact on energy consumption at 39 percent compared to 32 percent for the transportation industry and 29 percent for the production industry. This was revealed by Gigi Lagdo, president of Henry Douglas Philippines, during an unveiling of environment-friendly building designs.

However, even before the environment alarm bells rang, a number of developers had started considering environment-sensitive designs in their systems here in the Philippines.

Take the case of Alveo Land Corp. (formerly Community Innovations Inc.), whose first structure is the one-hectare Ayala Land development Nuvali's "livework, live-learn-relief the "epitome of a green lifestyle" by its proponents.

Inspired by the US-based Green Building rating system Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Nuvali's features energy-efficient, water-conserving facilities in its design and construction.

The development has integrated double-piping and series storm water management system tools to enable the development to maximize

DEVELOPING ALL

MAKE MILLIONS SELLING TO FIL-AMS

ATTN DEVELOPERS, FRANCHISORS BUSINESS AND PROP FIRMS

PRICE STARTS AT $300.

832-6872, 817-9627, 883-2914
Cell 0926-229-7345, ask for RICH

10,000 PESOS A MONTH
CAN BUY YOU 1 HECTARE OF AMENITIES.

When you live at The Beacon, everything is yours to enjoy, at a price that's easily within your budget. Imagine, for as low as 10,000 pesos a month, you have access to a hectare's worth of luxurious, full-sized amenities like a 50-meter lap pool, a fully-equipped gym and fitness area and a 20-seater private theater.
What's more, it all comes with your dream Makati address.

More than 75% of the property is already sold, so don't miss out. Choose The Beacon and live the life you've always desired.

CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING!

Tel: 401.2881 / 401.2882
www.thebeacon.com.ph

Geo-Estate

Ayala Land creates new brand for corporate business group

A STRONG INDICATION OF ITS intention to dominate the real estate office segment in the next three years, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) recently boosted the corporate identity of its business arm engaged in this segment by rechristening it as AyalaLand Businessscapes.

In line with the real estate giant's move to fill the huge unmet demand for office space, particularly in the business process Outsourcing (BPO) sector, AyalaLand Businessscapes has over 17 projects comprising 37 buildings in various stages of planning or construction. All these projects will yield a gross floor area of almost 500,000 sq m by 2013, Antonio Aquino Abrogena, AyalaLand Businessscapes group head.

AYALA Land recently baored the corporate identity of its unit serving the corporate market by giving it a distinct name, AyalaLand Businessscapes, with Martin Abrogena as group head.

Key growth driver

The BPO sector, alternately known as Outsourcing and Offshoring, is likely to be a key growth driver of the Philippine economy up to the end of the decade. The Business Processing Association of the Philippines predicts this sector will earn US$13 billion in revenues and directly employ about one million people by the end of 2010. It estimates a demand for an additional three million sq m of new BPO office space in the next three years or more than the entire office inventory now available in Makati.

According to AyalaLand Businessscapes Senior Division Manager Ma. Carmela B. Ignacio, the name allows the company to brand its wide range of products, its product line covers not only BPO spaces but also industrial parks and spaces used as corporate headquarters and which demand a prestigious location and complementary amenities.

The AyalaLand Businessscapes inventory now includes five high prestige office buildings—Tower One & Exchange Plaza, MSE Building, 6750 Ayala Avenue and Ayala Life FGU Center in Makati and in Alabang—and three BPO facilities...the PeopleSupport Center and Convergys Buildings in Makati and the InfoOne Building in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Strong demand

A strong demand for its office products is indicated by the take-up rates of its projects even before they are completed. The UP-AyalaLand Technohub, a 16-building Science and Technology complex on 40 hectares leased from the University of the Philippines, already has the first two buildings fully leased out with the next three about 70 percent committed to locators. Six buildings in the Ortigas project will be completed by end of 2009 with the last four buildings completed by third quarter 2009.

Abrogena acknowledges that more major real estate players have premised their growth over the medium-term largely on the BPO segment. The problem nevertheless that market players will be pressed by time with highly differentiated offerings and the best value propositions for locators.

"Above all, we are offering speed to market to our locators and a huge inventory of space in various formats that will soon be available," Abrogena emphasizes. "It helps that the Ayala brand market has long recognized the expertise, efficiency and level of excellence of Ayala Land in this and other segments."

Complete office solutions

In the highly competitive BPO sector, AyalaLand Businessscapes will further differentiate itself by offering complete office solutions—and not merely office spaces.

"We will offer new and different working environments that allow employees to be productive and engaged. At the same time, their infrastructure and technology requirements will be addressed to their spaces," according to Senior Vp Ayala Land Businessscapes AVP and head of Business Development.

He explains that each new building taps into the expertise of Ayala Land in various fields. These include construction and property management, retail leasing as well as excellence in the residential development.

South Lake Village, a grand model for green architecture

GREEN ARCHITECTURE IS ONE OF THE many approaches to addressing global warming and preserving the environment today. This concept refers to home and building design and construction that have minimal impact to the environment, and instead for efficient use of materials, energy and space.

As in other countries, property developers in the Philippines have since made green architecture a popular and standard. Among the best local examples of earth-friendly architecture is Ilora City's South Lake Village in Ilora City in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. It is a 1,000-hectare master-planned township project of Ilora Properties (Philippines) Inc. (Ilpi). The environ-ment of this future "Makati of the South" is South Lake Village, a township within the country of 10 residential islands in a 35-hectare man-made lake. Each island, accommodates several hectares in size, will have 8 to 12 residential lots of about 2,000 square meters each.

RESIDENTS will enjoy cool air in a resort-like atmosphere.

ETON City's South Lake Village gives you an opportunity to live in harmony with nature.

Largest man-made land lake

Ilpi takes green architecture in the succeeding phases of South Lake Village development, which features the country's largest man-made land lake, to a higher level of sensitivity. The lake provides the green architecture element of efficient and natural ventilation.

"The lake will lower surrounding temperature in the community while the open space of the lake will provide cool and open spaces will create channels that the wind can flow from," says Alex Jacinto, Ilpi AVP and CIO of the Ilora City project.

The challenging operation and maintenance of the artificial lake has taken account the green architecture element of energy conservation. Water will naturally be supplied through rainfall and eleven running streams that flow will join the lake's downstream pool to keep the lake clean and pollution-free.

Continuous aeration of the lake will be done through external pumps to keep water circulating and make it habitable to fish. Lake corridor fountains will serve as aeration devices and visual attraction and for residential islands, ample space between homes and the height limit on houses will allow better air circulation within the community.

With 47 percent of the village comprising open spaces, plus the proximity of homes to the water, residents will also enjoy cool air and a resort-like atmosphere, according to architect Erlind Hipolito, ace of architect Nestor Mangio, managing partner of NG Hipolito and Associates, Ilora City's designers.

"Because of building guidelines in the community, each house will have ample space between each other, helping the flow of air to keep it through naturally," Brian adds.

Green features

Great open spaces promote air circulation while green spaces will eliminate ground heat created by massive use of concrete. Bike lanes will also make getting around the village, even on hot afternoons, a breeze. Finally, the relatively short distance between parks and open spaces will also make it a walkable community.

Other green architecture features of South Lake Village are streetlights using longer-lasting and energy-efficient lamps, engineered tiles and tree-lined sidewalks.

With all the green features of South Lake Village and Ilora City, the current state of the environment is preserved while giving residents a healthy lifestyle. In fact, South Lake Village shall offer dual benefits of preserving the environment while keeping its residents healthy," Jacinto says.

"Living in a green community gives you an opportunity to live in harmony with nature because you consume less energy while at the same time maximizing the effects of better environment in your lifestyle," he adds.

As part of the development master plan, a mall, residential and office developments, as well as a hotel, golf course, BPO centers and other future developments in Ilora City will likewise be guided by these same principles of green architecture.

AVANT'S maximum limits of well-configured spaces.

AVANT at The Fort—a Philippine pioneer in green architecture

BEYOND CREATING

Brittany defines living spaces at Avant at The Fort

CREATING MASTERFULLY planned communities has been the hallmark of maverick real property developer Brittany Corp.—developing living spaces that truly uplift the quality of life of its residents. At the beyond creating the space, Brittany has also been utilizing its expertise in defining the spaces, making it truly a home that seamlessly merges comfort and convenience with a high standard of living.

Brittany, a proud member of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., the country's largest home builder, brings to the forefront the importance of carefully defining living spaces and its significance in raising the quality of life through Avant at The Fort.

Groundbreaking dev't

A Philippine pioneer in green architecture, Avant's vision is rooted in an environmental approach that includes creating a structure that maximizes the use of renewable energy such as sunlight and air for natural light and ventilation. From property selection to design with the aim of minimizing the disruption of the environment and how it is used on a daily basis.

Raising living standard

"With the unveiling of the Avant showroom, Brittany has once again elevated its dedication to providing the highest possible standard of living using the most innovative solutions while continuing to uphold a commitment to create beautiful and safe homes," said Marylen Ibiana, Brittany's third operation officer. The Avant showroom is located on Gardenia Street in Legaspi Village, Makati.

"Indeed, it is an honor for us to create home among our prestigious roster of vertical developments," Ibiana concluded. Avant occupies the last remaining non-within the much-sought after 4-hectare enclave of Forbes Park West, the prime community at the heart of the Bonifacio Global City. The 36-story residential condominium is designed by architect Al-berto To and will be offering 240 units.

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative blueprint. Its eclectic and eclusive portfolio includes Crown Woods, Portofino, Georgia Club, Bluvale at Greenbelt, EL Monte at Legaspi, and Avant at The Fort. With its metropolitan developments steeped in character, artistic and chromatic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously weaves the local real estate landscape.

Avant's model unit is now ready for viewing.

Developers making 'green' mark on environment

From page B3-1

to customers with minimal impact to the environment.

Taruna also surrounds the entire subdivision with double-tree-lined roadways and special paving. These roadways include wave-border parks and pedestrian gardens where residents can walk or ride bikes.

For profit or for environment?

The integration of reusing quick grown in the housing residential development is nothing new. Bacnotan and surfacing the environment in the process cannot with every project.

Not all developers have given in, however.

Kawayan Cove, a 600-hectare exclusive seaside residential subdivision of the Rizzon Payed Investors, leans heavily on sustainability. In fact, all the structures are required to adhere to certain environmental parameters set by Kawayan Cove. Among the subdivision's provisions is that every lot owner can only build a structure occupying 35 percent of the property, and that for every tree that is cut during house construction, several more be planted to replace it. Kawayan Cove also makes a deliberate effort to ensure the conservation of Bamboo Beach. A modern water treatment plant exceeding international standards ensures that all effluents to flow before being discharged to the ocean.

Kawayan Cove also works within the design philosophy that "less is more." Aside from working within the bounds of its natural topography, it has been purposely designed to have the lowest density among all the high-end residential developments in Batangas. In fact, Kawayan Cove has half the number of lots compared to a nearby development which has the same total area.

Currently, 78 percent of Kawayan Cove's first and second phase has been sold with 18 residential properties already constructed, all having a tropical Asian flavor.

'Green' practices

Other examples are Sutton's roof utilizing the principles of Green Roofing technology (Sutton is member project of Alvaro Lopez, Land Developers), and the Le Soleil de Boracay which uses energy-saving and waste-reducing practices to preserve the island of Boracay. Le Soleil has received its partnership with Green Hotels Association, an international group that advocates environmental responsibility in the hospitality industry.

Benefits of Sutton's green roof include improving air quality through emission of oxygen and absorption by the plants and filtration of dust particles, rain savings from increased storm water retention and decreased need for sizeable drainage and sewage infrastructure such as pipes and tanks.

Last week, Alejandro S. Blanche, president of the National Real Estate Association, told the Inquirer that developing green is the call of the day with developers considering buildings as par with LEED standards.

Also last week, Edgardo M. Aliman, president of Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, said his group wants to promote the integration of wastewater treatment facilities.

Lapiro said the energy consumption of the building sector increased more than 80 percent from 1980 to 2006, and is estimated to increase by more than 180 percent from 2004 to 2030.

THE TRANQUIL spaces of Kawayan Cove's Meditation Plaza

THE 29-STORY residential tower Sutton uses green technology principle in its roof deck.

Rain-proof your house

By Charles E. Rubio

WITH HEAVY SHOWERS and torrential downpours happening almost every week, you may now be able to gauge how well you have equipped your house to cope with this eventuality.

"No matter how well you have prepared during the last months, flaws in construction will come to the fore when your house gets soaked with incessant rain," said Jimmy Ducay of Pitra Builders Realty.

He added that to prevent further damage, such flaws should be taken care of immediately.

"It's never too late to correct flaws in your house. They're the most cost-effective means of warding off catastrophe over the rainy season," Ducay said.

Most common

A leaking roof is the most common problem in many households. While the most obvious signs are the dripping, one should also take note of the unsightly marks left on the lower ceiling after it dries up.

While a roof remains as a brand-new roof could remedy this, those living in the topmost floor of an apartment or condo may have to do something else.

"Water marks or ceiling mirror the rain water gets stagnated on the terrace floor. To solve this, ensure that the terrace floor has sufficient gradient to completely and quickly drain out the water collected. Any cambrations should be leveled by applying cement plaster. Any cracks in the roof slab, if found, should be properly covered up by using special grade cement grout," he suggested.

Clogged drains could be another culprit.

Expensive damage

"Clogged gutters may not be a life or death problem, but they can lead to expensive property damage," he said.

Ducay further explained that clogs can force waters from rain into our ceiling to back up under the eaves of the roof, damaging the attic and walls.

"While placing an item mark at the mouth of the drain pipes is no excellent idea, periodic checkup is advised since the debris that gets collected in the mouth could start blockage," Ducay added.

Even the walls could fall victim to cost-incurring repairs.

"The walls whose outer face is exposed to extreme rainfall, will allow seepage. To prevent seepage through walls, provide roof overhangs where ever possible to protect the walls from being exposed to rainfall," Ducay suggested.

SINGLE-DAY SALES RECORD

International luxury real estate developer Kingdom Hotel Investments (KHI) recently set a single-day sales record of $40 million and over 100 residences sold when it released the first phase of its Raffles Residences project at an exclusive selection event in Manila. nGroup partnered with Raffles Residences as one of only a handful of "by invitation only" brokers from around the world. As a result, nGroup Property Holdings Inc. was the top performing broker in terms of sales and dollar volume for the record-breaking release, standing from left are KHI property advisor Chris Wells, nGroup Vice President Jessica Guevara and KHI property advisor Chris Corrigall. Seated from left are KHI property advisor Laurel Zinn and Sales Director Aj Turner as well as nGroup President Amy Ventura and SVP Cindy Isaac.

GE provides Innovative Solutions for Olympic Games

Manila, August 2008 – As a worldwide Olympic partner and exclusive provider of a wide range of innovative products and services, GE continues to be an integral contributor to the success of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. In this partnership, GE is providing infrastructure solutions for Olympic Games including power, water treatment, transportation and security, and supply hospitals with ultrasound and MRI equipment to help doctors treat athletes.

Since announcing its commitment to support the Olympic Games, GE has taken several steps to make the environment in which world-class athletes compete is more conducive. Colin Low, President and CEO of GE Philippines, Singapore and Cambodia, said, "We want to give the athletes and the audience a one-of-a-kind experience through the various areas GE has contributed in. From water treatment services to power generation, we have provided solutions to make the Olympic Games experience a memorable/unforgettable one."

The highlight of the partnership is the GE Imagination Centre, a two-storey, 16,500-square foot/1,599 square meter pavilion that showcases GE's innovative technologies used to build the infrastructure for the Olympic Games. It follows the theme of the five main Olympic elements: wood, fire, earth, metal and water. The Imagination Centre features a soft symbol, interactive tour, an open atrium for more than 1,500 guests and an outdoor waterfall. "GE's Imagination Center brings the GE brand to life, allowing visitors to discover how GE solutions can enhance the world of tomorrow," he added.

ABOUT GE:
GE is a diversified global infrastructure, finance and media company that is built to meet essential world needs. From energy, water, transportation and health to access to finance and information, GE serves customers in more than 100 countries and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. For more information, visit the company's Web site at http://www.ge.com. GE is imagination at work.

GE Money Bank

A Savings Bank

HOME LOANS

Time to move in

Get your desired home now. Apply for a GE Money Bank Home Loan from July 1 to September 30, 2008, and get a low first year fixed rate of 7.49% p.a. and waived fees.

This is simply better banking.
This is GE Money Bank.

Call us at (02) 777 8500
Apply online at www.gemoneybank.com.ph
or visit any GE Money Bank branch nationwide

GE imagination at work

PROPERTY

Open plan living

IN AN IDEAL HOME, PRIVACY AND SECURITY are essential considerations. In an spacious, designer for compartmentalized houses with fully enclosed rooms have become the norm. This enables each occupant to have his own private space and lends a degree of psychological security. On the other hand, people also feel the need to occupy a social interface, encompassing such spaces and interact with others—pursuits most amenable to larger, more open spaces.

This prompted well-known photographer and fellow rider, Francis Rivera, and his beloved spouse, Carol, to come up with a unique alternative. Their Calamba sanctuary which they fondly call "Casa Amore" or "House of Love," I was inspired to write about their weekend home after soaking in its ambience for a full day, complemented by a feast of Carol's excellent cooking.

Open plan concept

The house follows the open plan concept, stressing unlimited partitioning and generous spaces. Its open concept is evident not only in the interior partitions (or lack thereof), but in likewise seen in the use of glass walls around the entire house. According to Francis and Carol, they chose to have an open plan concept for a number of reasons.

Openness and abundance of space ventilates the soft, particularly when the house is surrounded by lush greenery, as in this case. Lake Calibuyo and its surrounding greenery. Looking out on the lake is really relaxing. It takes you miles away from the cramped spaces you usually have to be in the city. The wide, open spaces literally "broaden your horizons." Hmm, too, the sky seems a lot bigger, a lot clearer. It can give the viewers a fresh perspective on his work, his relations, his life.

Allowing sunlight and fresh air indoors is the best form of detoxification. In the confined spaces of city structures, we constantly and unknowingly inhale chemicals from detergents, cleaning agents, insecticides, preservatives, airconditioned air, and pollution, among others. With open plan spaces, air circulates more freely; fewer walls and more windows let in more light, which can prove cost- and energy-efficient. Sunlight is also the best disinfectant, which makes for healthier surroundings.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marissa de Guzman Jr

ALLOWING sunlight and fresh air indoors is the best form of detoxification.

Brings family together

The living area, dining room and kitchen are found in one huge area. This setup brings family together, encouraging interaction. The bedrooms are on the second floor perhaps over the living area. Despite having open balconies, privacy is achieved by positioning the rooms at a higher level. Although they overlook the living area, they still maintain their privacy. Every room is flexible enough to cater all whatever necessity.

This type of planning promotes family bonding and togetherness. To ensure the couple's purposes, TVs, HI-fi, computers and PlayStations are discouraged. The family members are then compelled to leave all worries back in the city. The house is an a laid-back lifestyle: reading, reading, reading, kayaking and enjoying all the others activities nature has to offer.

Many people feel a need for openness and space. For them, open plan designs may be the answer, affording flexibility, accessibility and easy maintenance. Sometimes, the solution can be had simply by knocking down a few interior walls, opening up some windows, or incorporating fur nishings. Perhaps, repainting with brighter, lighter colors can help. Bringing nature in through plants and water features may also do the trick. For Francis and Carol, enjoying nature and open plan living have become a passion.

* * *

For your comments, please send a email to marissadguzman@yahoo.com.

JME Supreme Premium Quality

Western Woods Flooring

"Doing floors since 1983"

MAIN AREA: SOLID HARDWOOD, ENGINEERED HARDWOOD, ENVIRON® HDF LAMINATED

BLACK AMERICAN WALNUT, BAMBOO, OAK, MAPLE, BIRCH, TEAK, BEECH, MERBAU

STAINED: WALNUT, CHERRY, MAHOGANY

Handyman
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga
Makro Alabang
Makro Cubao
Makro Fairview
Makro Pasig
Makro Pampanga

Federal Hardware
Tutuban Center
Tarlac
Shekinahlas
Tarlac

SKS Interiors Inc.
Bonifacio Global City

For Eastern Hardware
Bonifacio Global City

SPECIAL ON STOCK: SOLID OAK BOARD 20mm x 300mm x 1500mm
40mm x 350mm x 1250mm

Kiln Dried, Premium Grade A
Solid Northern Redwood Pine

Pressure Treated Solid Decking

Other Solid Pine Wood Board Available

Alabang Tel. No. (632) 771-2231
Fax/tel. (632) 771-2237
G.C. Tel. No. (632) 771-8887/87-71
Telefax. (632) 410-8288
Warehouse Address
0917 [illegible]
e-mail:
jmesupreme_ph@yahoo.com.ph
Website:
www.jmesupreme.com

VISTA VERDE
RESIDENTIAL ESTATE
Along Mahatlika Highway

Magnificent sunsets ...
Beautiful nature ...
Pristine waters ...

In a Place of Comfort and Serenity

Live a vibrant lifestyle, reflecting the warmth of the Spanish Mediterranean region. Delight in the spectacular views of Mount Banahaw, Lemon Bay and Taytay Bay a backdrop to manicured lawns and tree-lined walks within the community.

Grass family fun awaits you to get together in sports events at the multi-purpose clubhouse equipped with a swimming pool, basketball court and tennis court. Plus, get a FREE MEMBERSHIP at South Wind's Marina Country Club and Resort

Developer:
STA.LUCIA LAND INC.
Building Better Lives.

Call: Orchard Property Marketing Corporation
(02) 635-49-46
(042) 373-78-46

MANHATTAN Garden City towers more than 30 plus amenities in its second phase alone.

Counting down the many amenities at Manhattan Garden City

A COUNTDOWN IS USUALLY RESERVED for radio stations, movie box office grosses, features in festival Pisaro channel and so forth. But this may be one of the rare times you'll hear someone be having down for a residential condominium project by property giant Megaworld Corp.

"We have to do a countdown simply because we have more than 20 different amenities to offer at Manhattan Parkview Residence, the second phase of Manhattan Garden City in Ayala Center," noted Megaworld Grand Properties Inc. President Antonio Chuvenagco Yu.

Active, passive amenities

Tower 1 of the second phase hosts these active amenities: a basketball court and bleachers, where friends and relatives can cheer on the action, while the fun game players and guests alike can luxuriate the brilliant canopy walkway to check out Manhattan Garden City's other amenities.

Three passive amenities define Tower 1, to Antonio a sitting area, garden plaza, and fountain. According to Yu, the fun fountain of this area make it ideal for reading books. Dressing to your favorite tunes to your iPod and swallowing, given its strategic landscaping.

Tower 2 also hosts the Manhattan Garden City grand transfer pavilion, which is the main access point to the residential towers and to many amenities. This pavilion is also the gateway to the MRT and LRT; train stations and the many amenities of the Ayala Center. Manhattan Garden City is the first and only residential condominium that boasts of a direct link to both train stations, thus making every spoke of the metro accessible within minutes.

"Our water amenities are concentrated in Tower 2. The whole family will surely enjoy a 20-meter lap pool with a bubble pool, outdoor spa, shallow water fantasy and a landscaped sun deck. A reading pool with a water play area and slides are perfect for youngsters. Cabanas lend a tropical beach feel to the whole area.

Indoor amenities

The social and leisure relationships of residents are also taken into consideration. Thus, indoor amenities such as a game room for kids and adults, a business center and a function room are also provided.

"With all of these amenities in place, residents of Manhattan Garden City don't really have to venture out for some form of relaxation. Everything they need will just be a few steps from their condo units," Yu added.

To check out for yourself the many amenities of Manhattan Garden City, visit www.thenewbeautifulgardencity.com.

A 20-METER lap pool and a reading pool with a water play area will surely be a hit for the entire family.

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Our favorite entertaining bits of whatever

1 **8-Bit Operators: The Music of Kraftwerk**

Whether or not you're a Kraftwerk fan, if you can read and comprehend the phrase "performed on vintage 8-bit video game systems" on the CD cover and still need us to tell you why it's awesome, please go to your room and play the original Nintendo Cookie for 10 straight hours without blinking. There's hope for you yet, dear child.

2 **No More Kings' "Sweep the Leg" Video**

Take '90s nostalgia in the form of a rambunctious pop song (by No More Kings), add a video directed by William "Infinity" Tablan spoofing "The Karate Kid" and "Running Antennas"—with cameos by Gerone "Mr. Bold-Ing" Badiche and Daniel-san himself, Ralph Mendiola—and the result is awesome overdrive. It's one of the coolest things on MTV 10K, just kidding—on YouTube) since The Karate Kid was in theaters.

3 **Slingbox Pro and Duo**

Don't let a boring hurricane or ty get in the way of your important, pressing TV needs. With the Slingbox's game-shifting technology, you can watch and control your cable or home theater from anywhere in the world via laptop or mobile device. Check out Monaco's DJ0A for under $200 cable and wireless capability.

Slingbox.com or StopyMeHere.com

4 **I'm From Barcelona's "Let Me Introduce My Friends"**

I'm From Barcelona is a goofy, charming chamber pop band from 3,500 miles northeast of Barcelona. Despite a lineup that rivals municipal orchestras (boasting 29 members at times), the Swedish indie gang makes a small, friendly, back-garden kind of set. Its, their second release sees whimsy-cryous chimes to on chorus hooks like the one driving their single, "We're From Barcelona," but the memorable tunes at base are simple and direct, with lyrics about eavesdropping, stamp collecting, chicken pox, and other youthful rites of passage. Standing in the middle of the baroque arrangements (which feature trumpets, organs, glockenspiels, and kazoos), singer and songwriter Emanuel Lundgren comes across as an approachable guy who cares about the little things.

What partly keeps the sweetness from becoming cloying is the music's smartness and subtle humor, the references to skipping fiddle classes played for a chuckle. "I have built a tree house / Nobody can see in / Because it's a 'free and me' house," Lundgren sings on "Treehouse," which builds to another huge chorus so inviting everyone below will want to grab a hi-tech and climb on up.

SUPER EXCLUSIVE!

Meet Mister Death

Super's near-death encounter with Pushing Daisies' Lee Pace

By Juana R. Manahan

WITH THE REVIVAL OF THE PAYNAtical story line in TV shows these past two years, "Pushing Daisies" comes across as a refreshing notice among the lineup of the usual monsters, vampires, and superheroes in love.

"Pushing Daisies" follows the life of Ned, a pie maker with the ability to bring people back to life with one touch, and killing them again with a second. The series revolves primarily for its whimsical black comedy. Rhiannon[illegible], by the way, includes supernatural colors and storybook-like sets, costumes, and song and dances. You almost forget how sensitive the premise of the show is.

Meeting Lee Pace, the star of "Pushing Daisies," a touch like meeting his character Ned in the series. He is tall, soft-spoken, and has an intellectual air about him. The perfect gentleman, he is totally well-read, well-traveled, and well-versed on current and historical events. Much like the boy you would want to bring home to Mom.

How did you feel when you found out the role was written expressly for you?

I wasn't really looking to do TV this year. I've got movies coming out over the next year, and it was a big decision to do the television show. It's a lot of time and a big commitment, so I really wasn't looking to do it, but I heard that Bryan [Fuller, the show's creator] had a script out.

I read it just to congratulate him on it. I read it and I thought, "This is really a good show. There is one character that I felt I could play in there."

I called Bryan to say congratulations, and he was like, "I wrote it with you in mind. Would you please do it? And I was like, "Oh, no. I'd better read that again."

It felt really good. I mean, I don't know how I feel about a character who "brings dead things back to life and makes pies bring various other."

I like the props in the show. It's so bright and muted. Is that something that you guys come up with?

Bryan wrote it down that way, that it was going to be really colorful. With set show they took the dial and really turned the blue up so that the colors are super saturated and really bright.

It really has got a big movie feel. You get that after the pilot episode. It's big, you know, the production value is crisp.

Sometimes, we've got 300 effect shots in an episode, between the dead bodies, and we shoot a lot of green screens, so we have a great set on the road top of the building and you get what looks like Paris in the background.

Is it always very sunny, the set, with you guys?

No, it's actually a lot of work. We work[illegible] hour days on the show. It's a whole lot more like 1 said, it was so cinematic. It just longer to set up, it takes longer to light more shots. Most shows get one, and the can kind of punch in for a tighter shot. wider lenses so that big movie feel.

They do this and then they punch in a still see a lot of the background. It's still a con, as it takes a long time to shoot our s[illegible] many and[illegible]

You're saying that you get a big movie Does it feel a bit like theater? A bit of p[illegible] stage/home theater backgrounds.

I did a play every year since I've been school. But not like Brittle Chatsworth. Chatsworth is like—She is awful.

And the singing bands in the show, too.

Do you get to sing? I saw the episode[illegible] she does sing.

Yes, really great. Ellen Greene and T[illegible] sing. I'm a little[illegible] about singing.

Who do you like the most—a character you or an opposite one?

I like Ned.

Is he the opposite of you?

He is probably more like me than I can[illegible] am. I can't touch dead things back to[illegible] wouldn't say it's a lot like me actually. It re[illegible] lot like me.

How long are you going to stick[illegible] character and Chuck out touching each[illegible] and all that?

As long as they keep us on the air. We h[illegible] It's the longest foreplay ever. They're set[illegible] to get Chuck and Ned together, eventually going to happen. It can't happen. We can[illegible] get the kiss at the beginning of the pilot, then they're never going to kiss again. They never going to do it.

Are you aiming for commercial success your artistic integrity, your own creative ridiculous?

I think the commercial success, especially as series—it's not like you're selling toilet[illegible] It's easy to aim for that kind of success. It's of the nature of what series do, you have to[illegible] true to yourself and you have to know what[illegible] want to do and know what makes you happy.

If people were in more into that kind of[illegible] they want to fund into that work you are very[illegible] then you're lucky. If you're successful, I[illegible] have time in you have to be happy with what you do.

I mean, that's with anything in life. If you're not happy with what you do, it's not going to be worth it. No amount of money is going to change that[illegible] no amount of fame is going to change that[illegible] You just have to enjoy it.

"Pushing Daisies" airs on ABS Beyond Monday at 10p.m.

Our favorite entertaining bits of whatever

From page C1

5 Readymech Flatpack Toys

Shoot-on gift ideas and crafts! Thanks to design firm Fwin, all you'll need to double-sided tape, thick matte paper, and 10 minutes assembling time to build one of 12 bonfire creatures. Just download and print a PDF, cut around the edges and fold/tape in place. Think Beanie Babies, but cheaper, trimmer, and with names like Dodrealeatchex, Headbanger, and Hypocrite of Death. But Readymech's coolest products are their DIY pinhole cameras. Like the toys, all you gotta do is download and print a PDF. Follow the instructions, and shoot away!

Readymech.com

6 Once DVD

The "non-realist musical" Once, starring Irish singer-songwriter Glen Hansard and Czech pianist Marketa Irglova, is about love and music in a nontraditional way. It's a film that Hansard, a member of the Irish pop band The Frames, and Irglova wrote, recorded, and performed themselves. Hansard plays a busker who meets Irglova, a Czech immigrant who sells flowers by day and plays piano in her spare time. Hansard's character is also a struggling musician who's trying to get his band off the ground. Together, they write songs that express their feelings for each other. Hansard's character is also a struggling musician who's trying to get his band off the ground. Together, they write songs that express their feelings for each other. Hansard's character is also a struggling musician who's trying to get his band off the ground. Together, they write songs that express their feelings for each other.

Night riders

It's a cacophonous world of perilous straights, screeching rubber and rumbling engines

From page 6A

guests will get to rub shoulders with those jet-setting VIPs until the wee hours.

Chasing chequered flags

For those interested in catching the racing action live, three-day corporate hospitality suites and packages (which might only be in December 2007) are still on sale. A total of 84,500 three-day walkabout and grandstand passes have also been issued, along with 13,000 corporate hospitality and Holiday Club seats.

A further 3,000 single-day walkabout passes per day have also been made available. Ticket prices range from S$ 30 (single-day walkout) to S$ 3,999 (three-day Pit Grandstand pass), which are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Motor sports has always been the ultimate test of nerve and skill; it's more

at excitement connected. These daredevil drivers test powerful machines as they blaze their way through a series of pernicious tracks and various weather conditions, all in the pursuit of that elusive chequered flag.

It's a cacophonous world of perilous straights, screeching rubber and rumbling engines. And for some revelers night in Singapore has, racing fans from the four corners of the globe will get to be part of Formula 1 history.

SITT would be sorry if we didn't tell you that, of course, the saddle in you will stinged and class-unveiling contemporary, this action-fighting supercomputer on wheels can't actually fly.

For more information on the 2008 Formula 1 Singtel Singapore Grand Prix, visit www.singaporegp.sg or call their Ticketing Hotline at +65 6738 6738.

Demonstration of the lighting system

The F1 Simulator

View of Marina Bay from the Singapore Flyer

Night riders

Singapore revs its engines as it gears up for the world's first Formula 1 night race

LOST IN TRANSIT

Paolo R. Reyes

LIKE NORTHANCE, DAVID HASSELHOFF'S brainte social networking site, every attempt at a "Knight Rider" revival has crashed and burned in a yellow-dotted wall of '80s nostalgia.

But if HIT were to have any final impact before being buried along with the Hoff's "Baywatch" and "Starsky & Hutch" movies, it probably will be the F1 night race in Singapore.

As the first night race in Formula 1 history, it is arguably the last City's biggest sporting event, which will be held on Sept. 27 and 28 on a 5.067 km street circuit of public roads along the Marina Bay area.

In this back-breaking sport where steady aggression meets massive horsepower, over 100,000 spectators opened our over 15 grandstands will be spellbound by awkwardly contorted machines as they scream past the garden city's heritage landmarks at speeds in excess of 200 kph.

Menace of the East

The night race also boasts of a bespoke state-of-the-art lighting system and the revolutionary one-of-a-kind electronic DigiStage, making the Singapore event one of the most technologically advanced F1 circuits in the world.

To usher in replicate daylight, a whopping 1,600 lighting projectors have been mounted to illuminate the race track, ensuring an optimum level of brightness that is four times brighter than the average sports stadium.

Billed as the "Menace of the East," the Lion City will rear to life in late September and early October, as it gears up for a host of world-class events and activities during the GP Season.

These include art shows like the Singapore Biennale 2008 (Sept. 11 to 16) and The Artistic Drive (Sept. 23 to Oct 6), which will exhibit monumental sculptures by Fernando Botero, Jean Dubuffet, and Niki de Saint Phalle throughout the city. There will also be music and cultural events such as the Singapore Jazz Festival (Sept. 19 to 20) and Esana Xtell concert (Sept. 26).

Gourmands are also in for a treat as Michelin-starred chef Laurent Peugeot serves up fine cuisine at the Fifties from Sept. 22 to 28, while the Singapore Food festival (Oct. 2 to 5) brings together over heroes from as far away as the Isle of Wight and Corsica Island.

Car enthusiasts and F1 fanatics can check out the Singapore Motorshow (Sept. 26 to Oct. 5) and ING Renault Team Preview (Aug. 29 to Sept. 28).

But the title-exclusive Amber Lounge party (Sept. 27 and 28), a fixture in F1 circuits around the world, will probably be the most sought-after ticket. Rare drivers, team principals, sponsors, and international models will all congregate at the Grand, where

MARK MORRIS CI

Formal unveiling of the Pit Building in July

The Singapore Flyer in the backdrop

imagine customizing your touchscreen

F480

SAMSUNG

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

No to fascism, yes to fashionalism

TEAM Manila goes spectacular

When fashion and art breed with nationalism, Pinoy pride is something to wear on your sleeve.

WHEN NINOY said his now-renowned line, "The Filipino is worth dying for," I doubt he had any idea that he'd literally become today's fashion victim.

Two decades later, our senators martyr has become the hottest profile on the definitive apparel of modern activism. The statement-maker...

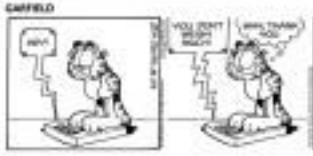
Analog lived here designed graphic text in honor of Ninoy Aquino. Remember the [illegible] rules: stylist Jenny Jones have been devastated by its symbolic value.

Even before these collections were released, there were already classic yellow

MORE ON D2

KRINT Junior in My Filipino

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPAN — By Jose Asaldea

TULDOK — By Hans Coll

PUSAO BARDY — By Ryk. Junior

DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabajina

HAIKUKOSMOS — By Jomike Tejido

SALAMIN — By Darwin Perez

BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott

ATOMO AND WEBBY — By Lira Garcellano

LOVEMOKOTE — By Elizabeth Chongco

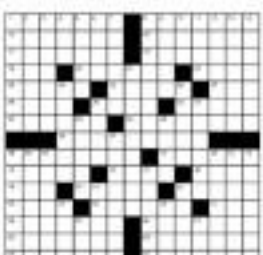
KIKO MACHINE — By Hans Acosta

BEN — By Darrell Shelton

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Capital city of Ukraine
8 "The Conduit" composer
15 Infamous Dickie
16 Poses in comical poses
17 Private Island site
18 2/3 miniature opera
19 Hookers' gig
21 ___ up to Mitch
22 Lawyer's secret revealer
23 City in NE France
25 Death notice
31 Hertz purchase
32 Embarrassment victim?
34 Adriatic seaport
35 Sleep-warning
37 Getting involved
39 Up to the calendar
40 Chronicles
44 Pigmented
47 Sounds
48 Ice cube segments
49 "All Quiet on the Western Front" character
50 Floor cover
51 Take the Camera
55 Bean curd
56 Tenth of NOOK
57 Lumberjack's tool, informally
61 Lions or bears
64 Ontological category
65 Derrick
67 Communications
68 Talking books
69 Fence connection
70 Supersedes

DOWN
1 Worldwide
2 Jeopardy! champion Rutherford
3 "Right to remain silent" warning
4 Cello kick



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
8/23/08

Friday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Icons parallel. You have an innate ability that make people think you're psychic. Or maybe it's because you're so attuned to what you're doing. Your technical skills are excellent, and you have high standards for yourself and others. You've got lots of energy and are a dynamic performer. A major career path you may want to take is that of a comedian or comedy writer. Actor Ben Affleck (1972) and actress Jennifer Aniston (1969) are also celebrities born today.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're in a unique position to help someone with a health issue. Your knowledge and experience will be invaluable. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might have a disagreement with someone very important or very high-tech. Be careful not to say anything that could negatively affect your career. Choose your words with extreme care.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're in a public-relations position. Be sure to say the right things to the right people. Your words could have a huge impact on your career.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in a position to help someone who's in a financial bind. Your generosity will be appreciated. Don't be afraid to share what you know.

CONCEPTS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	4						1	
6			4		8			2
		3		1		8		
	2						7	
		5				9		
	8						4	
		8		9		6		
4			5		6			3
	9						2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/23

©2008 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	4	5	3	9	2	1	7	8
7	3	9	1	8	6	2	4	5
8	1	2	4	7	5	6	3	9
1	7	6	2	5	8	3	9	4
3	2	4	7	1	9	8	5	6
9	5	8	6	3	4	7	2	1
5	6	1	9	2	7	4	8	3
4	8	7	5	6	3	9	1	2
2	9	3	8	4	1	5	6	7

PHIL Youngblood

ASTRUD Crisologo

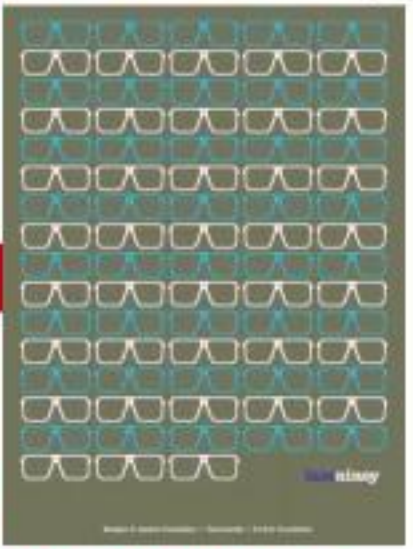
LuiME Su

GEO-graphic! Archipelago turns iconic in Rhett Eala's My Pilipinas collection for CollezioneC2.

ROMMIE Carreon

APPLES Alcala-Sadhwani

JOEY Hizon



No to fascism, yes to fashionalism

From page B1

Many were being peddled in underground stores, popping up every now and then among trendy young urbanites, some of whom were probably not born yet on the fateful date of Aug. 21, 1983.

These shirts are but an example of a growing pop culture trend that finds fashion cohabitating with patriotism, producing offspring with a cutely-named moniker: Fashionalism.

The buzzword is attributed to designer Rhett Eala when he unveiled his My Pilipinas line for CollezioneC2, which splashed the Philippine archipelago on collared shirts and cotton polos.

"Fashionalism is the theme of our My Pilipinas series," shares Eala. "We've infused fashion, art, and nationalism into our clothing line. We want to make nationalism hip and relevant to today's generation."

When the line was launched two years ago, there were three styles using the Philippine map. Now almost all styles have the map.

"It's a fun way to show your pride in being Filipino, without a lot of words. Filipinos have today become global citizens," he says.

The map shirts have become a hit, especially among balikbayans and Pinoy aspirations who bought heaps of the shirts as pasalubong. Others opt for is thinking of incorporating other symbols, such as the sun or the word "Filipino."

Raise the red flag

The archipelago was also splashed on the wide straps of the limited-edition OD06 watches designed by Tin Pop. I cannot count how many times people had offered to buy the watch off my wrist since I got it two years ago!

Pairs don't the controversial Adidas Philippine flag jackets that flew off the shelves and kept Adidas busy with classes for more orders. The jackets however, were considered unconstitutional because its design looks Philippine flag law, Section 34, which prohibits anyone "to use the flag in whole or in part as a costume or uniform."

This, as opposed to the cloaks and daggers that are de rigeur in government bodies.

Rival label Nike has its own fashionalista team—Manny Pacquiao dry-fit shirts. Manny is, after all, a hero in his own right.

Incorporating symbols and icons has become effective in presenting national pride in an organic, non-contrived way (read: Sin Isday). Patriotism evolves from being an archaic notion into something hip. It may well be just what we need to address flagging pride and confused identity.

Now here's the caveat: When does fashionalism become more of "fashion" and less of "statement?" Will the symbol eventually outweigh its substance? Will Manny's face become the local equivalent of Che Guevara's stylized image—a nonconsumerism symbol that has overshadowed the revolutionary's principles?

Yeah, after all, trends is be enunciated with imagery first before the message.

Team Manny's ironbod Nimoy eyeglasses on T-shirts could be an attempt to ask, "If we were Manny's glasses, how would we see our country today?"

We've got the fashion down, that's the easy part. As for the passion... that would take a lot more than simply wearing it on our sleeves.

HAARP is everything

A Hype is born

It's said to be the lightest, brightest basketball shoe ever

By Glenn Rufino

BY NOW YOU HAVE ALL SEEN the video of Kobe Bryant jumping over an Aston Martin, and the follow-up video of the "Manny" impersonator upon a pool of sharks with the "Jackass" gang, transmitted on youtube.

"Putting a video like that out on the internet seemed to have worked more people and created more buzz, than if there was a commercial for it."

Kobe Bryant, this year, at the Nike headquarters in Beaverton Oregon, Bryant and Mark Parker, CEO of Nike Inc. introduced international media to the latest addition to its basketball kicks family, a sneaker that is billed to be the lightest and strongest basketball shoe ever, with cutting edge technology such as Lunarlon foam and Flywire. Nike Hyperdunk is born.

"I want a shoe that is very light. I want a shoe that I don't feel seconds when I change directions, and I want a shoe that looks". Other than that you can do what you want, but they better not be ugly" Bryant tells us when he was asked what he looked for in a basketball shoe.

Bryant and some LBA as well as other international basketball players are using the hyperdunks during the Olympics.

After we ate through the presentation and chatted with Bryant and Nike designers, a few of us, including writers from Slam and Dime magazine rushed to the Ice Jackson building to be the first people in the world, outside of Nike, to play ball with the Hyperdunks, even before they hit the stores in the US, with no less than Bryant watching us lump it up.

After the game, just as I was thinking about how much lighter they were than I expected, I bumped into Bryant in the hallway.

"How do you like em?" he asked. Before I could even respond, he continued, "They feel good, right? They work magic here, tell your boys in the Philippines about em."

When the Hyperdunks were released to the Philippines, a handful of pro ballers started using them, then the UAAP season began and you may have noticed teams like DLSU, Ateneo, FEU, and UE all with color coordinated Hyperdunks. The public took notice and now more and more playground ballers started to be curious about the hype and got a pair.

Back to the Giants, where the "MOST" of 2013 limited edition Hyperdunks, with a color way and look reminiscent of older Mary Wolfmore in the future in the 80's classic movie "Back to the Future part 2" were released, people lined up outside stores for as long as two days to get a pair.

Expect more surprises from Nike. The hype about hyperdunks is no hype. It is good enough for the 2008 NBA MVP. It should be good enough for the rest of us mortals.

Flip flop fusion

By Sharon Cuneta

FOR FASHION ADDICTS Sharon Cuneta, an expert in extremities, regardless of the weather, must be appointed by everyone who's anyone.

"As a matter of fact, I'm known for my work in shoes now doing," he said. "I like a shoe person who has a strong point of view and a personality to me shoes are the things to differentiate people from each other. Shoes are performance. I have my favorite designers and I have my favorite shoemakers."

Sharon describes his personality as "a universe of no two different moments." He gets influenced by his surroundings, his mood, his feelings, "it was pretty interesting to see how Sharon's shoes changed from the time she was a child to now."

Sharon's shoe fetish manifests in her collection of shoes, which she says are getting out of control. "I have a lot of shoes, I have a lot of shoes, as a matter of fact, I have a lot of shoes

Gas hike revelry

Text and photos by Phoo Kudeta

LAST JULY 31, WE VENTURED into the wet evening, swam through floods, and hit Warehouse 115 to check out Diesel's launch of its Fall/Winter '08 collection aptly titled, "Diesel Rocks Manila."

More than an unveiling, it was a full-on party with music, dance, and fashion converging to wear Diesel style. Mashed-up beats provided by the musical tag-team of Lady Tricky and Punk Boy dressed an aural backdrop to the evening's activities.

To keep energy levels up, freebie dinners were held soon in the middle of the floor and dazzled the crowd with their unique moves.

At midnight, the lights dimmed to signal the start of the fashion presentation. The center platform was reconfigured to reveal a five-foot runway-made treadmill that acted as the stage for the models to walk, run and dance wearing the new collection.

Definitely not fans of the stuff (you're invited!), the use of the machine I suspect, for the Argentinean trendsetters also put forward an ultra, fun-inspired way of presenting fresh to the crowd.

The fashions exhibited the evening woman's chemo of opposites and contrasts, where dressing choices could be made to suit any taste or theory.

Elements like heavy and light materials, grunge and glamour, and menswear silhouettes and lacey and sheered fits will come into play depending on your mood and attitude. In the dressy overalls and slouchy tops were matched with slim-fit jeans that allowed freedom of movement (especially if you were to run on, say, a treadmill!).

After the show, we took turns hitting our own treadmill photo shoot in the Diesel boots as we partied alongside the Diesel Style ambassadors: Vin Baggio Wilson and Sanya Smith, editors Reris Aseeno and Phil Evangelista, and Spotgoodies's Karl Faeste, who were all decked out in their favorite Diesel ensembles.

We got up on the treadmill and danced until the early hours of the morning. The party rocked, Diesel rocks!

Lady Tricky takes the wheel

Idling on the sidelines

Sugoi Chel'Grove, Bobbie Carmona

Jumpstarting the crowd

24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Janne Cuenco-Dario and Sid Jose

ON STAGE The rush and urgency of a moment sung out in an off-Broadway musical by Jason Robert Brown, **Songs for a New World**. For one-night-only, on August 24, this abridged acclaimed musical is showing onstage at The Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in ADSC Plaza, Makati City. For tickets and inquiries call 7-7-3738 or (0908) 331-1861 or email peachy.aldave@gmail.com.

ART Visual art, literature and music collide at the **Ortigas Foreways Exchange: The Big Opening Night** tonight at 6 p.m. The evening starts off with a back to back talk with award-winning performer Angel Cuenco and visiting designer artist Angelo Ilarmendez. The artist opening of 5% featuring works of Tec Guerra, Lorie de los Reyes, Karl Ghilotia, Paul Mondok, Robert Lasigengger, Joel Coronia, Ninokin Suppi, Jayson Silvestre, Pow Martinez, Poking Anading, Kiss Lasalita and Joe Cenal. Live performances by Khavn de la Cruz, LSC, The Lowerganglers, Radioactive Sago Project, Thejae Alfonzo, and Ria Muñoz rounds of the evening.

FILM For weeks, just music, at the **2nd Internasional Short Film Festival**, on Aug. 29-31 and Sept. 2-4 at the Shangri-La Plaza Cineplex. The festival features silent films (not counted from six countries—Spain, Japan, France, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Italy. Its first special screenings in the Shang Cineplex Cinema 1, the films will be accompanied by a live music score, with all bids such as Colpitt, Wade Lopez, Louie Talan, Wonder Gonzo, and Kalayo Legaspi leading their skills. Cinema 1 screenings start at 7 p.m. with admission at P75. Additional screenings of the films, with original score are on Listening in Style on Aug. 29, Sept. 1 to 3. Call 632-6722 to 24 for schedules or email programs@manila.goethe.org.

For more info on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or grab an your free copy of 24/7 Metromeal Magazine. Text 24/7 gigs to 2661 for Globe and Isla and 2661 for Smart. Submit your entries before Sunday to events@mag24-7.com and mag247@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Simon San Juan
Editor for Life Pam Pastor

This boy holds the world record—in stacking cups

By Nina Mark M. Salido
2bU Correspondent
Photos by Nino Jose Erbeta

Steven Purugganan, Speed Stacker World Champion

IF THE COUNTRY'S FAILURE TO win any gold medal in the ongoing Olympics is dragging you down, then let this piece of noteworthy news perk you up: Steven Purugganan, a 10-year-old, has recently been declared world champion in the 2008 World Sport Stacking Championships.

Not only did he emerge on top in each of the three categories he joined in his age division (10 years old), he also ended up first place in all those categories overall, beating hundreds of contestants, young and old alike.

Stacking—a game that challenges one to stack and un-stack a set of special cups in the shortest time possible—is currently taking the country and the rest of the world by storm. The game is promoted and governed by the World Cup Stacking Association, which was formed in 2003 and is now known as the "little-known sport that has become a big deal in the Philippines."

THE PURUGGANAN brothers started speed stacking just one and a half years ago and have quickly improved their skills, earning them top spots in several competitions

Filipino Steven Purugganan, 10 years old, is in Manila for a special exhibition

my screen

"For as low as P888* a month, it's like getting an LCD TV for free!"

Introducing MyScreen, the latest in LCD TV technology. Starting at P888 a month, you can get a sleek MyScreen LCD and a 2-year cable subscription. It's like getting a free LCD for the price you normally pay for your cable subscription. Still paying for just cable TV? Now, that's crazy.

Call now for more details

Available in all AY Series branches

For reservations, call (632) 633.7222 or email to

CROWNE PLAZA
GALLERIA MANILA
THE PLACE TO MEET.

Graphics Design: Mikki Joshua Cotoc

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Financial Hotel Directory

Learn from the butlers

PAN PACIFIC MANILA, known for its distinct Butler Service unveils the Student Intensive Package – a comprehensive training on hotel management and operations.

Students have a choice of two training modules from Butler Service: Opera Systems Training Demo, Basic Butlering, Food and Beverage Service, Housekeeping and Actual Bed Making Demo. A very interesting module is the Butler Service Session which will educate students about the history and role of the modern Butler, its skills and attributes and the Butlers of Pan Pacific Manila. A Certificate of Attendance will be given at the end of the training.

Live-out package starts at P1,450 net and free in package at P6,860 net per person. Live-in package is based on two or triple sharing.

Pan Pacific is the first and finest luxury hotel in the region offering personalized Butler service. For enquiries and reservations, please contact the Banquets Team at 526-6788 or visit panpacific.com/manila.

The Linden Suites appoints new GM

VILLANUEVA

THE LINDEN SUITES has recently appointed a new general manager in Maria Elizabeth "Lizette" A. Villanueva who was also its resident manager since the start of the year.

Villanueva brings with her 17 years of hospitality experience having been associated with international hotel brands such as Westin, Mandarin, Shangri-La and Sofitel. During this last 10 years, she has served in the capacity of a senior manager with extensive experience in rooms.

Before moving to The Linden Suites, she was director of rooms at Sofitel Philippine Plaza from November 2006 to January 2008. Her previous appointments include general manager of the Rockwell Club Towers, which she joined in 2006, assistant general manager of Tagaytay Highlands from February 2005 to February 2006 where she was also concierge and lodge manager. Prior to that, she was executive assistant manager of the club from August 1998 to January 2004. Villanueva has also served other duties levels in various capacities. Among them were Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Manila in Oriental and the Manila Philippine Plaza.

Villanueva graduated with a degree in secretarial administration at St. Scholastica's College. She also earned a certificate in business administration at Washington State University. She is an advocate of "management by default". Through her and from leadership, she aims to inspire other managers as follow by bringing out the best in her staff.

Known for providing a personal hospitality experience, The Linden Suites is located at San Miguel Avenue in Ortigas Center and is within short walking distances from the financial, shopping and dining hubs in the area. It offers elegant and functionally designed suites keeping in mind luxury and comfort as all rooms are equipped with an entertainment system like an LCD television connected rooms), DVD player, and iPod 3.5 cable. Every suite also has a full service kitchen with its flatwares, chinaware, glasses, cooking utensils and an electric range complemented with a dining set. Also, look forward to retiring to its soft and sweets beds, pillow top mattresses, duvet and sofa bed in the living room. All suites are handpicked to ensure comfort for frequent travelers, corporate guests and families.

For reservations and for further inquiries, call 636-7878, e-mail at sales@lindensuites.com, or log on to www.lindensuites.com.

Prince Albert Rotisserie offers Roman dining pleasures

AS INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS AND Resorts marks its 60th anniversary this year, the hotel group has come out with a sleek coffee table book. The InterContinental Kitchen, which offers a culinary tour of over 100 InterContinental hotels in gastronomic stories of more than 60 countries is now through the eyes of the properties' seasoned chefs and crowned in their kitchens by the hotels' super food and beverage teams. Those, who wish to purchase a copy of this book, can do so at the Inquiry Desk Shop of InterContinental Manila at P2,317 each.

Still in the culinary news with the book, InterContinental Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie in collaboration with InterContinental De La Ville Rome will offer a special degustation menu of regional Italian favorites from the hotel's Ristorante "La Piazzetta" from Aug. 14 to Sept. 14.

The culinary fiesta or an InterContinental De La Ville Rome is part of a series of food festivals to be conducted way into 2009 at the Prince Albert that will introduce restaurant patrons to gastronomic gems from InterContinental hotels around the world.

The restaurant is open for lunch Monday to Friday and for dinner Monday to Saturday. It is best to reserve a table in advance by calling 793-7008.

WATERFRONT HOSTS PISTANG PILIPINO

Shown are (from left) Waterfront Manila Pavilion GM Christopher Park, corporate director of sales and marketing Christopher Legaspi, corporate events solution manager group revenue manager Ms. Susana Conde, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao hotel manager Ms. Theresa Fernandez, Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino sales and marketing manager Shelly Arciaga, corporate pearl resources and development director Gaye Canalita, group sales manager Yvette Mok (Malaysian), marketing communications panel Gonzaga and G Hotel Cebu manager Tan Mangonsiaju.

A NEW WAY TO CHILL AT THE BELLEVUE'S 20/20 BAR

For something different for a change. Celebrate your birthday on a Tuesday and treat your friends to an evening of merriment at the 20/20 Bar. Indulge in a complimentary refillable pitcher of selected drinks and featured beverages from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. when you present a valid ID indicating your birth date. Wednesdays of the month will be given a new twist as we treat you to the ultimate ladies' night out at the posh 20/20 Bar. Groove to the funky music with your girlfriends while you drink the night away with free selected cocktails from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Everyday, get to chillout the afternoon blues as you wind down to the soulful music and relaxing ambiance of The Bellevue Hotel's new extended happy hour. Enjoy the cool evening with the bar's local beers, wine and spirits at half its price from 5pm to 9 pm. For inquiries, please call 911-6001.

School cool on rainy days

When rain falls, your fashion quotient need not fall with it. Here's your style survival guide

By Blanca Fernandez

TO PUT STOCK ON FASHION IN THE face of typhoons may seem trivial. But imagine this: the immobile rain clouds dripping off your hair, monsoon slushing because your soles have absorbed every drop of flood water you've passed through, and as soil coil you cry valiantly to roll down the hem of your jeans. Inconsiderate you were your tassel loafers called, making all that running across build-ups in vain.

Dressing well for the weather is very practical, will earn you brownie points from professors, and, most of all, is actually quite easy.

The short of it

And since the tops are long, the bottoms can be shorts. Avoid lengths that will land you in detention, but shorts in good-fitting shorts that fall just above or just below the knee. These will let you run around the campus comfortably even in a downpour. Unlike jeans, they don't cling to your skin when wet and they dry faster.

Boot rainy blues away

Boots look fabulous with colorful Wellingtons and flat-soled leather boots. Rose being the footwear of the season. Not only do they look like a dream, waiters' feet boots will keep your feet dry as dessert. Try Phoenixmalls.multiply.com for the latest wellington designs, or Justfab and Zara for leather boots.

Rain buddies

If you all begin with a simple jacket made of water-resistant fabric. Sports jackets are now tailored well and are sleek to fit the female form. And for those wary of the bulk or the sudden surge of heat, check out the Adidas Originals sleeveless hoodie or the Adidas cropped track top.

Grown-up raincoats

One can also opt for the rainy-day staples from our pre-school days, the raincoat. Many brands now offer a wide variety of iconic in these hues. The fabric is generally water-resistant and the silhouettes are very flattering.

On the top of our must-have list is the gray Guy jacket with bell sleeves and Mango's rich purple coat.

Be the rainbow after the storm

Don't let the storm get you down. Staying at home may seem such a good idea in this weather, but you can have only so many cups of tea before it sets from too well, another rainy day.

Get the energy to fight the drab by surrounding yourself with all things cut artful. Try brightly striped sweaters, plastic totes in watermelon prints, and trendy sandwiches in different colors.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Grand Wagyu at The Fireplace

FEEL, SMELL AND TASTE THE BEST OF DOWN UNDER AS THE FIREplace brings you marble-perfect, grade 5+ Wagyu beef all the way from Australia. Made with only the highest grade first-class ingredients, treat yourself to Wagyu Beef Linguine and Tartare, Grilled Wagyu Striploin with Gorgonzola Croquettes, and Wagyu Fillmyo. Make your dining experience even more memorable by pairing these delicious beef dishes with premium wine available from the restaurant's impressive selection of more than 500 vintage and fine World wines. Australian Wagyu is increasingly recognized as some of the best beef in the world. It is known worldwide for its marbling characteristics, naturally enhanced flavour, tenderness and palatable, making it magnificently superior to beef from any other known breed of cattle. What makes it exceptional is that Wagyu cattle is raised on nutritional, fed with high quality grain and participates in a well-designed exercise programme, all contributing to its unsurpassed marbling. The Fireplace, located on Level 5 of Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, will be offering Australian Wagyu Beef from Aug 18-30. For reservations, please call 840-1234. Australian Wagyu Beef is exclusively distributed by PTG/ISM.

BORACAY COOL GETAWAY

Palm Pacific Resort and Asian Spirit airlines launch the Boracay Cool Getaway P6,900 per person package during the 11th Visayas Area Business Conference. Shown are (from left) Asian Spirit senior Ambassador Alfredo Yao and Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano together with Palm Pacific senior and PCCI-Boracay president Charlie Uy and one of PCCI's Pillars Ravi Buenaso. Ib. Boracay Cool Getaway for as low as P6,300 per person (quad sharing) inclusive of 3 days/3 nights accommodation with daily breakfast, roundtrip airfare via Asian Spirit Cebu with roundtrip airport transfers. For more inquiries, call Palm Pacific Resort at (02)845-2223 ext 16 or Asian Spirit Cebu at (032)233-4261.

Century Park Hotel names New GM

CENTURY PARK HOTEL IS PLEASED TO AN-nounce the appointment of Philippe Barthelemi as its new general manager. Philippe Barthelemi, a native of Grand Fayhan, Belgium started his career in 1988 at the former Sofitel Hotel Manila. He then moved to the Swiss and began his career as the manager of Phyllis Club Manila. Barthelemi's vast experience in the hotel industry has given him the knowledge and know-how to grow and develop companies and their employees. Barthelemi's vast inspiration to the best in food, wine, sports, discusses issues and how their comes up with a decision that everyone will agree on. Excited about his new assignment and with the challenges ahead, he states, "I am very pleased and proud to join an organization like Century Park Hotel which has been around for 30 years and considered an institution in the Philippine hotel industry. I can also honored to lead a team that will help reposition and pave the way of Century Park Hotel's future."

BARTHELEMI

MARCO POLO DAVAO EARNS AWARD

Marco Polo Davao has won the prestigious 2007 Hotel of the Year Award, beating all other Marco Polo hotels in Cebu, and Beijing, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Xiamen and Wuhan in China. Known for its service excellence, Marco Polo Davao was conferred the award at the recently concluded Marco Polo Hotels marketing conference held at Ala Marco Polo Shenzhen. The award further highlights the hotel's popularity as the icon of Davao City's warm and genuine hospitality. For inquiries and reservations, please call (082) 221-0888 local 1340-1342. Photo shows Marco Polo Davao general manager Stanley Lee (left) shares with Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano the prestigious 2007 Hotel of the Year Award that Davao City's top international luxury hotel won in Shenzhen, China recently. Marco Polo Davao bested all the other Marco Polo hotels in Cebu, Beijing, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Xiamen and Wuhan in China. Flanking Durano and Lee are Tourism Undersecretary Edu Jarque (right) and Marco Polo Davao sales and marketing director Ari Bonoan.

BUFFET chef Ramiro preparing the Red Prieta.

'Malaysia... A Tapestry of Asian Tastes and Traditions'

IN CONJUNCTION WITH MALAYSIA'S 51ST National Day and for the third year in a row, The Heritage Hotel Manila (THHM) in partnership with Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia Airlines, Cebu Pacific Airlines and The Royale Bintang Hotel Kuala Lumpur recently launched the Malaysian Food Promo dubbed as "Malaysia... A Tapestry of Asian Tastes and Traditions" from Aug. 10-31, available at Riviera Café's lunch and dinner buffet.

Malaysian Ambassador Dato' Ahmad Rashdi Hazis and Eddie Teo, THHM general manager led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally launch the Malaysian Food Promotion to the public. Present during the affair are key members of the corporate, media and diplomatic circles. The colorful affair was presented by the hotel's sales and marketing team spearheaded by Gigi Gaw, director of sales and marketing, Angel Asi, sales manager and Rosario Garcia, marketing communications manager. The Malaysian Food Promo's key partners namely Caroline Ang, VP for marketing, Cebu Pacific Airlines, Charlie Idanda, director for advertising and promotions, Cebu Pacific Airlines and Stephanie Chan, director of sales and marketing, The Royale Bintang Hotel and Joey Tan, The Royal Bintang Hotel also showered their support during the festivities.

Aromatic and kaleidoscopic Malaysian cuisine especially concocted by a triad pair of guest chefs from The Royale Bintang Hotel Kuala Lumpur - chefs Zainal Abidin bin Said and Azrul bin Mhd Tah, a five-night demonstration and cooking master showcases the Malaysian gastronomy. Cebu Pacific which re-cently launched its new direct flights from Manila will be showcased at the Riviera Café's during the food and cultural promotion.

Explore Malaysia's succulent culinary delights at The Heritage Hotel Manila's Riviera Café. For inquiries and reservations, please call 834-8888 or e-mail foodbeverage@heritagehotelmanila.com. The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

Athlete-turned-model Phil Younghusband has just bought a Magic Sing to prepare for GMA's second season of Celebrity Duets

Pitch perfect

By Wenggie Gallaga

"IT'S HARDER TO SING IN FRONT OF 70 people than it is to play football in front of 30,000 people," says Phil Younghusband, who actually has played football in front of 30,000 people.

But he grew up with football and he's a natural athlete. Joining GMA's second season of Celebrity Duets, on the other hand, is a totally new ballgame for the 6th-Pinoy athlete-turned-model.

"I joined for the enjoyment and for a challenge," he says. "I've always enjoyed challenges, and for me, singing would be a challenge." Of course, the charming young man is a well-rounded entertainer who has the confidence to carry it off. But can he sing?

"I love to sing," he says, laughing. "Yeah, I do feel silly in the shower and with people. I'm comfortable with (like in the car). But rarely in people I don't know."

But this is Celebrity Duets where the celebrities are not known for being singers. The contestants partner off with a real singer and, together, entice people to vote for them to stay in the show and perform for another week.

Phil's competition, as buzzed on the net, include Joey Marquez, Pat sister Melanie Marquez, designer JC Buenaflor, and MMAer Bryan Bernardo. Nope, not people known for their singing prowess either.

"I just met JC Buenaflor and Bryan Bernardo the other day. I heard Bryan sing and he has a good voice," Phil says about his competition. "I see him as a rival."

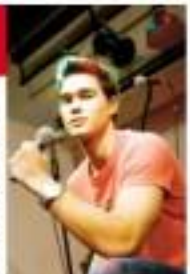
Phil won't let your flashiness (by far more like your Michael Bolde...type crooners already) he has planned his strategy for winning.

"I would have to sing a Tagalog song," he admits. "But right now I should learn a Tagalog song first. I'll just stick to a song that I know."

Strategy to drink than dribbling a ball and scoring a goal is easier than getting a mic and belting it out, but it's different strokes for different blokes, really.

Phil is going to have fun but he's also out there to win. "I am taking singing lessons. I'm also learning Tagalog," he says. And to seal the deal? "I also bought a Magic Sing!"

Celebrity Duets season 2 airs every Saturday on GMA 7, 8:30 p.m. starting tonight.



TUNING in is Phil Younghusband

Phil Younghusband's Top 5 Songs (at the top of his head)

1. "You Are So Beautiful" by Joe Cocker
2. "Have I Told You Lately" by Rod Stewart
3. "Everything I Do (I Do It For You)" by Bryan Adams
4. "Never Let You Slip Away" by Andrew Gold
5. "(Marry Me My Baby" by David Cook

Photography by Mitch Mendoza
Make-up by Che Vino
Hair by Hector at Mug Bar
Bonifacio High Street
Thanks to JC Montes, Scott Hevarra and Joyce Pacino

Equip your shop with the right tools that drive business growth. HP LaserJet printers are ideal for high-speed, high-volume, and high-quality prints, giving your business professional-quality output.

Efficiency and value, that's what HP delivers on. And now it brings to stay connected in the industry. Purchase any of the participating HP LaserJet Printers and receive a Nokia phone for free.

HP LASERJET P1102
Php 12,350.00

HP LASERJET P2015
Php 31,450.00

HP LASERJET P4014
Php 74,350.00

Call 1-800-10-1-4488 or (02) 867-3551
Email ph.contact@hp.com

Where Technology Means More™

hp

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This boy holds the world ...

From page E1

World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA).

The WSSA hosts the annual World Sport Stacking Championships, held every spring in Denver, Colorado. Attracting contestants from all over the world, the competition convenes the fastest and most ambitious stackers who stand a crack at striking world records in their age groups and divisions.

This year, Pumaguinsan didn't just want to set the world record. He even broke his own previous world records.

In the 3-3-3 category where one needs to stack and un-stack a set of 3 cups, Pumaguinsan holds the world record, finishing the task at 1.46 seconds, in the most complicated Cycle category, where one does a series of stacking and un-stacking using 45 hand movements, he clocked in at 4.26 seconds, another world record for the young boy.

Love affair

Pumaguinsan's love affair with stacking started in 2006 when he and older brothers Brian, 13, and Andrew, 16, saw the 2006 World Sport Stacking Championships on ESPN. The giants gripped them so much that they taped it so they could watch it over and over again, and then practiced with plastic cups which just got stuck in our mothers and got crumpled.

The family ended up buying a set of the special cups made especially for stacking. It didn't take long before each boy had a set of his own.

The brothers are part of Team USA, and while they compete with each other in the overall scoring, they also team up. Steven and Andrew competing in the Doubles...Cycle category and even placing first in the 18-and-under division in the second championships.

To train for stacking, the Pumaguinsan boys have coaches who supervise their practice for speed and consistency. The practice comprises 20-minute drills every day, calisthenics and mental preparation as well.

Stevens, on his own, practices at least an hour every day. He also tries to be careful with his hands around the tournament season, making sure they're in tiptop shape for competition.

Also, "I usually just think positive," he says. "I think positive, that good things will happen."

This positivity has brought him lots of medals and trophies. In fact, they're so many that he has already lost count. "They're just on a shelf in my room," he says casually.

There is no doubt, though, that this achiever is very proud of what he has accomplished so far. "It's just a great feeling, knowing those all those stackers all around the world said that I was just a great stacker."

Some of his goals include finishing the Cycle in less than 4 seconds, and beating the very skilled Germain stackers who have their own world records.

STEVEN at 10 years old may be considered the Stack King, beating out other contestants both young and old

Dance games

Pumaguinsan, along with the rest of his family, is currently in Manila for a very special speed stacking exhibition as part of Bonifacio Global City's Passion Bush events. Supported by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pumaguinsan will make an appearance as part of the city's lineup of activities for Game Blitz, a series of dance games that has already featured speed cubers last Aug. 15 and will be featuring speed scrabble on Sept. 7.

On Aug. 28, 4 p.m., Pumaguinsan will showcase his world-class speed stacking skills through an exciting demonstration at Bonifacio High Street.

The boys' parents, Danilo and Victoria, are very proud of their sons, and not just because of their impressive ranking and record-breaking times. When it comes to Steven, for instance, mom Victoria says, "I am glad he has remained so humble as he is through all these. He's remained level-headed."

"They are very competitive with each other," she adds, referring to her three boys. "It's all healthy. When we go to a tournament, we all go because all three are participating (so) if just one or two or it matters my job ranges."

Apart from sports such as tennis, basketball, baseball, golf and swimming, all three boys are also into playing with their Nintendo Wii and the Xbox's Kinect.

Steven, a straight-A student, also plays the violin for the school orchestra and considers Math his favorite subject.

Asked if he finds Lindsay Lohan or Miley Cyrus cute, Steven says no. He's only 10, after all.

But a world-record holder, and Filipino. Anyway.

E-mail the author at nhie-morbusta@yahoo.com

STEVEN, Andrew, Brian and their parents Danilo and Victoria

SATURDAY Special

THE INQUIRER THURSDAY magazine was formerly published from 2007 (October to 2013 January)

Bardem on the films he gave up to recover from 'Oscar fatigue'

LOS ANGELES—"I AM MYSELF AGAIN. I have my pink shirt and tie," declared a beaming Javier Bardem, who went on a long break after winning the Oscar and Golden Globe first supporting Actor honors early this year for his performance in "No Country for Old Men."

Claiming exhaustion from promoting the movie and participating in its Oscar campaign, Javier passed on several film projects, including the coveted lead in the much-anticipated screen adaptation of the musical, "Nine."

At the press tea for his latest film, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," Javier was downright engrossing, especially since the guy spoke, as he always does, in non-generic terms. It's not unusual why he went on a hiatus for several months—he was afraid that he would be repeating himself.

The long vacation benefited him, indeed...he was to an especially good mood during this interview. At one point, when he was at a loss for an English word, he asked: "How do you say...?" Drum: "Say it in Spanish," our colleague suggested. "But I don't know the word in Spanish," he whined and with a shudder.

The man is one of those actors whose larger-than-life screen persona also manifests itself in person—he has a big voice, strong presence, and is unafraid to express grand emotions. Javier also has the Iguanaesta' tendency to end sentences with the charming "no?" as in, "I can't imagine what it's like to be hearing two people no?" That was in reference to his character's entrance over with screams played by his ex-girlfriend, Penelope Cruz, and Scarlett Johansson in Woody Allen's more cinematic triumph, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

BARDEN
Larger than life.

Thankful

He sounded genuinely humble about bagging trophies for his portrayal of a psychotic killer with a bad haircut in the Coen brothers' masterpiece. The actor compared his win to hitting a lottery jackpot. "I feel blessed, happy and thankful, but I see it from the outside. It's like winning the lottery. Somebody said 'Number eight,' and I happened to have the number eight ticket—because it's impossible to believe that you're better than the other one. The performances that were also nominated were...unnominated!" He quipped with a grin, "I invented that word. Look at my English, man, it's getting fancier!"

Asked to elaborate on his Korea, he joked, "I retired to an island. I'm quitting."

BARDEN Pg

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

STAR WARS EXHIBIT ONLY AT SM MOA

The blockbuster sci-fi movies of the Star Wars Saga has created quite a following for people of all ages and races since its first release in the late 70's. George Lucas' storylines, characters, revelations and breathtaking cinematography and digital art are simply genius, and it is no wonder that fans & moviegoers all over the globe get hooked with the Star Wars mania.

Ed Lee, an Dr. Christian Soriano of Cebu, Section of correspondence pro-Nemesis, shared with us his amazing collection of Star Wars memorabilia and his love or passion for the classic film.

Q. When made you get into Star Wars?

Chris: After watching the film in 1983, I just really enjoyed the sci-fi film and have never stopped thinking about it. I remember back when I was really young, my teacher told me that that I was always daydreaming in class about Star Wars.

Q. When did you start collecting?

Chris: It was actually in 1996 when I got drawn into the toys. Back then, we lived in Abu Dhabi and are the ground floor of our building, there was this toy store. I noticed the prices a lot. I thought my first piece and started collecting Star Wars toys since then.

Q. What was the first item Star Wars toy you own or bought?

Chris: My very first toy is a hidden rancor figure. It's inside set and artwork is still sealed and it measures 4 and. The actual rancor is my collection that my business (as the trade) rancor, head guards, and Admiral Ackbar.

Q. In your collection, which toy do you consider the most special or rare?

Chris: I get this really rare vintage Boba Fett car from e-bay and this gigantic death star. It was released only in Japan and was no toner for sale. You used to collect a number of Yahoo bidds says to get most one day I passed by this store and there it was on display. I got really excited, thanked her, I wanted to see it so I and asked for the price and bought it without any hesitation.

Q. How many toys have you collected. Do you consider it the biggest in the country?

Chris: No, I know two other people who have bigger collections than mine. I have a room full of our Star Wars, another room for my other collections. I also collect Transformers, Star Trek, Harry Potter, Superman, and others. My Star Wars collection is probably the biggest among my collections, but I haven't really kept track of how many I got already or how much they are all worth. Let's just say that it's valuable for me to recreate any scene from the Star Wars movies with all my toys.

Q. What collectible keep them collections broken up, but you normally play with them.

Chris: I don't believe in keeping the toys in their boxes. Toys are for playing not for displaying. I spend a lot of time playing with the figures, and the space ships. Usually I play with my nephews when they visit me and give them some of the toys. I truly adore to it. I also modify and repaint some of them. I do a lot of modifying and repainting.

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope

"I just really wanted another one when I saw this in a store" Dr. Christian Soriano with his new cars & pigards Grand Tour

Some of Dr. Christian Soriano' collection of Star Wars figures and light sabers

Q. You also make your own toys right?

Chris: Yes, I make the Imperial base from scented candles, Star wars cups, starship cases and mini cups and the Rebel Cassanova which I made the only one in the world, and the Mr. sponge Kylo or which I modeled out of a model kit.

Q. What's your favorite Star Wars movie? What made you say about the newest Star Wars movie?

Chris: I've watched all the Star Wars series and my favorite would probably be Empire Strikes Back. I already knew they were going to make a 3D animated version but I watched a preview that it was going to be a horror. I thought it would just be a series on cartoon network or something. I'm not sure how it will be but it's definitely something to watch out for.

For all of you Star Wars fanatics and aspiring collectors, retrieve the treasure Star Wars collection of Dr. Christian Soriano as he shares his collection for the first time, only at the SM Mall of Asia from August 23 to 25, 2008. Enjoy this out-of-this-world experience and watch the newest installment of the Star Wars series at the SM Mall of Asia cinemas.

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL
4 BIG STAN
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 INKLL + E
THE X-FILES
7 TOROTOT
8 DOBOL TROBOL
9 LOVING YOU

indieSine
FEATURED FILM of the week
YEARS WHEN I WAS A CHILD OUTSIDE
NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
August 25 - 26

ERMITA

1 BIG STAN
2 DEATH RACE
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
5 LOVING YOU
6 DOBOL TROBOL
7 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
8 THE X-FILES
9 TOROTOT

METRO EAST

1 BIG STAN
2 WALL - E / THE MUMMY 3
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 LOVING YOU
5 DEATH RACE
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
8 TOROTOT

NOVALICHES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 TOROTOT
3 LOVING YOU
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 DEATH RACE

PIONEER

1 BIG STAN
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 DEATH RACE
4 TOROTOT

Meet and Greet these two hot ladies

Precious Adona and Mae Taylor

AUGUST 24 - 7:45PM (Tuesday)
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema Lobby

AUGUST 24 - 7:45PM (Tuesday)
Robinsons Movieworld Ermita Lobby

NOW SHOWING at Robinsons MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 TOROTOT
4 DEATH RACE

LIPA

1 MEET DAVE
2 LOVING YOU
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

DASMARINAS

1 TOROTOT
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 LOVING YOU
5 DEATH RACE

IMUS

1 LOVING YOU
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
4 TOROTOT
5 DEATH RACE

ANGELES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 TOROTOT
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS

1 TOROTOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 LOVING YOU
5 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 WALL - E / THE MUMMY 3

ILOILO

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 LOVING YOU
4 INKLL + E / THE MUMMY 3
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 MY SASSY GIRL

NOW SHOWING

Breath of fresh cinematic air

By Rito P. Asilo

"DINOSAURS: GIANTS OF PATAGONIA." Eye-popping visual feast in 3D.

WHAT DO JUMA, IDIOM AND 10 seasons have in common? Well, the 65-year-old exiled leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the entire reptilian genus that ruled the earth for over 186 million years (and they were wiped out by a sixty-mile comet 65.5 million years ago) appear in this month's enthralling alternatives to mainstream film fare: John Torres' "Years Strong Ako'y Anak sa Labas [Years When I Was a Child Outside]" at Robinsons Galleria's Indieffects, and Shaw Fuhrel's 3D spectacle, "Dinosaurs: Giants of Patagonia," at SM MoA's Asia's Icon Theater.

Narrated by Donald Sutherland, director Bayer's eye-popping visual feast takes viewers on a 45-minute time warp, one far back to 230 million years ago, when Argentina was still a subtropical paradise and Sauls existed faster as a symbol in its orbit around the sun, with 282 days a year (instead of 365 days)!

Guided by Argentinian paleontologist, Rodolfo Coria, the movie leaves the tracks of its two protagonists: The enormous plant-eating Argentinosaurus, which, at 120 feet and 100 tons, is the largest terrestrial creature of all time, and its nasty, 45-foot predator, the Giganotosaurus.

Although occasionally predictable, the CGI-enhanced movie does woo a discerning thrills from the best beauty of those prehistoric creatures and the elegant way it outlines before they succumb to extinction. The humongous beasts may have taken the evolutionary bullet, but it's fascinating to note that some 35,000 species of the dinosaurs' feathered ancestors continue to thrive to this day: The birds.

Sheltered existence

Interestingly, there are no winged creatures in John Torres' "Years Strong Ako'y Anak sa Labas," but the director's esoteric film-and-birds and engaging existential musings nevertheless take flight in his latest cinematic endeavor. In unabashedly indie fashion, he fuses film, poetry, ethnic music and dance as he examines how the subtlety of a seemingly idyllic farmer shadows and shatters the sheltered existence of his young protagonist, Tupper Torres (who grows up to be the filmmaker himself) — and how his perspective is the bigger scheme of things.

Torres' production initially feels like it's merely strung together by disparate, self-indulgent ramblings — but at closer look, it reveals more than just idle thoughts. It doesn't merely take much from the characters' thoughtless indiscretions but canonizes the protagonists' past in the hope of understanding their present by drawing parallelisms from his countrymen's displaced sense of citizenship, which is shown in a series of provocative vignettes.

A couple (Jun Lomongo and Ivonna Misenchut) extremely threatens love and fidelity; a beloved maid leaves her employers after 30 years to work as a domestic helper in Kuwait; and Pinoys — from Bakilones to Mechanics to Rotterdam in the Netherlands — shake off the ordinary and rebroadcast their dreams of a better life.

And, in Trouble, Jose Maria Sison huddles among American-made cigarettes and, heavy-eyed, recites his poem, "The Guerrilla is a Poet." Its winking candor, the self-styled rebel admits that he's better at delivering speeches than as a singer!

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Standout public speaker

DURING THE INDUCTION CEREMONY OF the newly elected officers of the Philippine Britain Society, Frank Fournier, who was re-elected president, and the event's host, Ambassador Steve Berdaguer, presented the guest speaker of the night, Dato Dapul, who delivered the speech that made him win the English Speaking Union International Public Speaking Competition (ESU-ISPC) in London. Ian Sing

STANDOUT PI

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarrete

POWER PLANT CINEMA

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS – G
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:30, 8:50

STAR WARS THE CLONE WARS – G
1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:10, 10:25

WALL-E – G
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

BIG STAN – R13
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30

X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE – PG13
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

DEATH RACE – R13
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE
1 2 3 4 5
BIG STAN
DEATH RACE

MAJIDTAYLOR
YIBSERVO BARONGHISLER
PRECIOUSADONA
TOROTOT
(Destierro)
Is she person. Long way to you
Lying to you?
DIRECTED BY HARRO J. DE LOS REYES
NOW SHOWING
RATED-P by Cinema Evaluation Board
MTRCB R-13

MTRCB G ALL AGES ADMITTED
HE'S IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN
WALL·E
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

MTRCB PG-13
THE X FILES
I WANT TO BELIEVE
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE	3 LOVING YOU	4 TOROTOT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WALL-E	2 BIG STAN	3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	
	4 THE X FILES	5 AGENT SPECIAL OPS	6 DEATH RACE	7 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN
GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
GREENBELT 2	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
	3 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	4 WALL-E	5 BIG STAN	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
	3 BIG STAN	4 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	5 WALL-E	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DEATH RACE	2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	3 WALL-E	4 LOVING YOU
MARKET! MARKET!	1 DEATH RACE	2 BIG STAN		
	3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	4 TOROTOT	5 LOVING YOU	
TRINOMA	1 DOUBLE TROUBLE	2 LOVING YOU	3 BIG STAN	4 TOROTOT
	5 WALL-E	6 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	7 DEATH RACE	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Shopping list: Ice cast of FOR THE FIRST TIME; Meet & greet AC Cowsecutive, Richard Gutierrez & many more; August 22, Activity Center

Greenbelt — AYALA MALLS presents world class show LUCIBELLA LIVE; August 21, 8PM, Greenbelt 3 Park

Alabang Town Center — Mauve Exhibit; August 21 – 24, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Amazing Shopping Challenge; August 22, Activity Center

Market! Market! — THE NEW 12 MELTDOWN LIVE SHOW; LIVE INTERACTIVE GAMES, LUNCH BOX MEETS & GREET; August 22, 23 & 24, 1pm, 4:30pm & 8pm; Activity Center

Christian Life — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's BELLE; August 6 to December 19, 2010; For details, call 8727772 or log on to www.repertory.philippines.com

Ayala Museum — Inner Loom: Handwoven Paintings from the BPI Collection on view until Aug 31; For details, call 7817836 or 7877777 loc 811 or visit BPI at www.ayalamuseum.org

Tri Nomo — Last Weekend to Live; Aug. 22, 1pm; Activity Center

Eight Picks; Eight Fashion Picks from Young Designers; Aug. 28-Sept. 6; 4th Level Cinema Lobby

Ayala Malls Cinemas
GREENBELT • GLORIETTA 4
ALABANG TOWN CENTER • TRINOMA
Featuring
THX Certified Auditoriums
THX
DON'T JUST SEE A MOVIE.
"Enjoy the best movie experience EVER."

10 TO 10 TOWN SALE
Aug 15-17
& Aug 22-24
Enjoy up to
70% Discount
in participating stores!
See leaflets for details.

Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Trinoma Tri Nomo

'Pinoy Idol' finals are underwhelming

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN "PINOY IDOL" PREmiered its 12 finalists months ago, we noted that the girls were more promising than the boys. Then, we fully expected that the idol's eventual winner would be female.

So, when the final three competed for the title last Saturday and Sunday, we weren't surprised to see that two of them—Gretchen Espina and Jayson Rustia—were women, and only one male finalist, Ryan Chavez, had managed to end up in the final trouble.

Verdict

Expectedly, Rain was the first to be eliminated, leaving Gretchen and Jayson to await the viewing public's "final-final" verdict. As everybody and his pet turtle knew by now, frontliner was and not experiences of a female winner were affirmed. Congratulations!

Strangely, however, the entire final minute of the GMA-7 competition didn't excite as much as "Philippine Idol" did last year. We watched "Pinoy Idol" regularly from week to week, but after a while, are found ourselves coming out.

We tried to figure out why we were coming that way, and decided that one of the major reasons/culprits was the fact that a number of the 12 finalists, especially the boys, weren't really that memorable.

Did the majority of the viewing voting public really believe that the survivors were better than the more promising finalists they didn't vote for? If so, that's truly unfortunate. If the viewing public doesn't vote the best talents in, what's the entire process all about?

Serious doubts say: It's all about popularity, stupid—and popularity is what makes singing stars. Oh, really? We thought it all started with exceptional singing talent, looks and charisma, and then popularity runs the result.

In any case, due to these and other factors, the "Pinoy Idol" title didn't involve and excite us as much as we'd expected, as we simply sat back and watched it unfold to its conclusion this weekend. Maybe next year's edition will be more exciting.

Support systems

Another factor that may explain why some of the better finalists were voted out early in the competition. Did their "non-gamers" support systems fail them? Were the survivors' support systems simply bigger and "better-oiled"?

Whatever the case, we're sure that these some of the better finalists were voted out early in the competition. Did their "non-gamers" support systems fail them? Were the survivors' support systems simply bigger and "better-oiled"?

Support systems

Another factor that may explain why

IN THIS ISSUE
Give credit where credit is due /G3

SATURDAY Special

E-mail sr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
Website www.inquirer.net/entertainment
Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Nina P. Aviles

Panic at the Disco takes unexpected turn in latest album

PANIC AT THE DISCO. At brash and near-exuberant as ever

By Nestor Torre

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO worry because we're still the same band," sings Panic at the Disco's lead vocalist in the opening track of their sophomore release, "Pretty. Odd." Don't believe him. The lineup's the same, but all you have to do is keep playing the disc to realize that, though the guys behind the group are the same, the music isn't.

"PRETTY. ODD." Some of fun.

Alas, there's the small matter of the exclamation point they've dropped from their name: Panic! at the Disco is now Panic at the Disco.

Desire to grow up

If you think the shedding of superfluous punctuation indicates a desire to grow up and be—ahem—more serious, think again. PATD may have taken an unexpected turn in their latest album, but they're still as brash and near-exuberant as ever. They've just updated their wardrobe, exchanging eyeliner and frizzy coiffures for the psychedelic brightness of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. (Yes, you read that right.)

"Pretty. Odd" pretty much lives up to its title—it's pretty, and the lines does it is, in more than a little odd. Beatles and classic rock aren't what one would normally associate with Panic at the Disco, after all.

The band is from Las Vegas, the shrine of pastiche, so this seemingly strange turn might be a case of natural progression—a matter of being true to their roots. And, if you're going to try to be like anybody, why not make it the Fab Four? If nothing else, you're guaranteed to come up with some good, radio-friendly melodies.

With "Pretty. Odd," the boys of Panic at the Disco—Brendon Urie (lead vocals and guitars), Ryan Ross (guitars), Jon Walker (bass) and Spencer Smith (drums)—have managed to distance themselves from their Fall Out Boy connection.

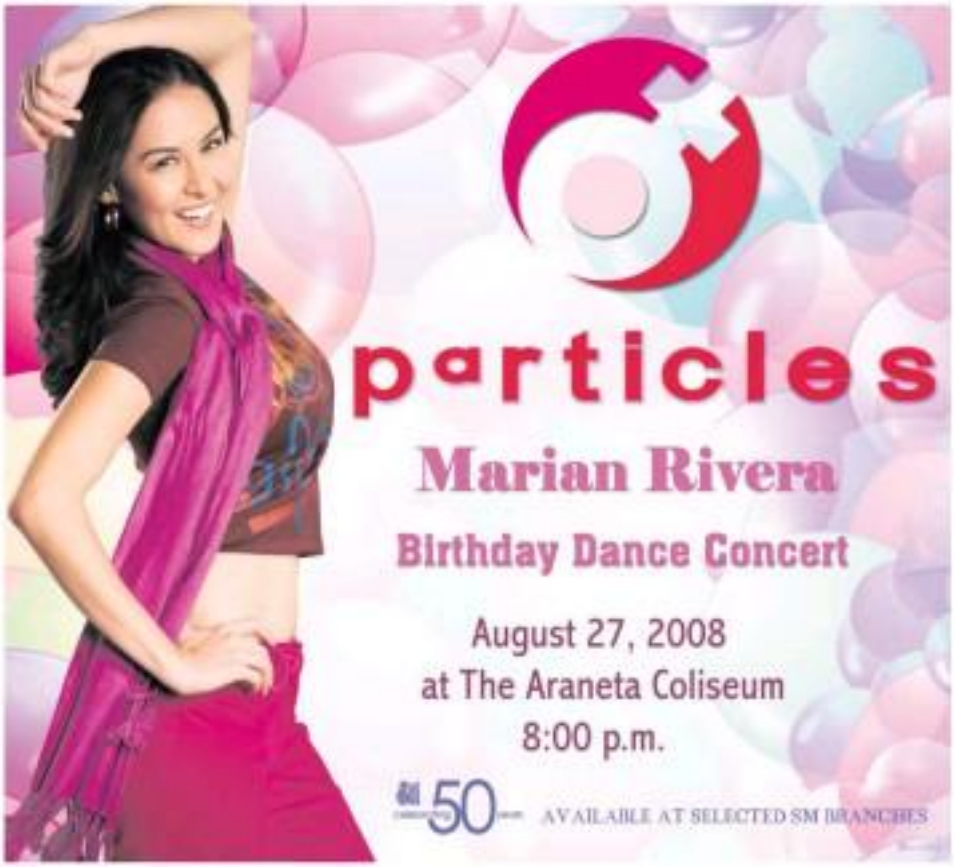
Instead of turning darker and more abstract, as one would normally expect from the sophomore album of a band like this, they've aimed for bright pop and even folk (track 12: "Folkin' Around").

They're not the first band to go retro—My Chemical Romance revamped their own sound by moving on Queen—but you can't dismiss Panic at the Disco and their new album so cleanly as that. "Pretty. Odd" is too deliciously trippy to be ignored, and the boys sound like they're really enjoying themselves.

Melodies

This sense of fun is what makes "Pretty. Odd" more than just imitative. It's not the Beatles, mind you—the group doesn't have that manic depth and range—but the album has a lot of pretty melodies with the right light and lively touch.

Whether or not their angry message has been selling the baroque layering of strings and horns, handclaps, whistling, harmonicas and harpsichords, they'll surely attract other listeners. Now, what we'd like to know is, how they're going to top this when the third album comes along?



Gabby, the singer, goes from fizzle to sizzle

By Kim P. Rubio

SINCE GABBY CONCEPCION'S UNEXPECTED return from his "exile" to the United States, his show biz endeavors and artistic pursuits have failed to impress us. Of course, his unique ability to turn every setback into a career opportunity is another matter.—Ed.

In the '80s, Gabby's on-and-off romance with Sharon Cuneta was the stuff that Hollywood's fairy tales were made of. But, we all know how their marriage ended.

Among the celebrated love team's indelible memories were their recorded duets: "Come What May," "Kiss Kasuray," "Snuggling Kuliau, Hugging Aasu?" and "Love in a Calesday."

CONCEPCION. Time has served him well.

which were lovely songs with dreamy lyrics and melodies.—Unfortunately, Gabby's singing was far from lovely or dreamy! His many counterpoints and barely-on-the-note vocal performances made us think he was either tone deaf or just plain bored.

Imagine our pleasant surprise when we recently heard the 44-year-old artist sing a few bars from "Kiss Pa Rin", the only original song in his 12-track debut album, "Gabby Concepcion." We couldn't believe our ears—and don't-no-hyperbole! Indeed, true-gives people second chances.

It turns out that Gabby has been nurturing a lofty musical ambition: all these years, and his 15-year hiatus in the States gave him previous time to hone his singing skills.

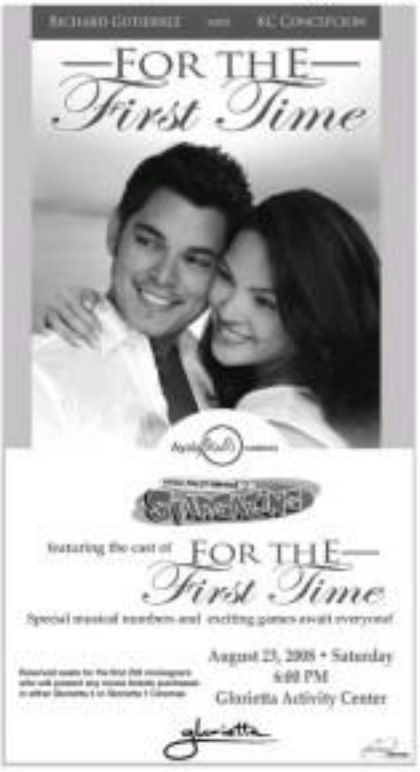
Insightful

As a singer, Gabby is insightful and intelligent, and his baritone possesses an unsullied charm and personality. There's also a raw energy to his vibrato, which he uses judiciously—and he diligently sticks to a song's melody.

Gabby gives fresh renditions of the album's best tracks. The lazzy "Where I Belong" and the infectiously funky medley of Hotdog's "Manila" and VST and Company's "Awitin Mo At Isasayaw Ko." Pilosi a song's degree of difficulty appears unconscionable ("Just Once"), he takes the safer, smarter tack of simplifying the vocal confusion.

It's interesting to note Gabby's decision to include "Come What May" (his personal anthem, he said), in which he sings with the splendid Nina. Ironically, his performance in the song also turns out to be his weakest.

Another curious inclusion in the lineup is the outstanding "Kiss Pa Rin", whose beautiful melody and "suggestive" lyrics should make it a radio hit in no time. (Ahem-hoping Gabby could sign on!—Ed.) Ballet in multiple duet, intelligent lyrics. "Hmm. Naughty man.



That girl from Ipanema

By Bebs Cervantes

DO YOU REMEMBER THE SONG THAT introduced us to a place in Brazil called Ipanema? Its catchy tune and rhythm caught our fancy. Bands everywhere love-panned the same. And, because of the song's popularity, the whole world became familiar with a "much-talk" like Ipanema called Ipanema. We all talked the talk. Ipanema. So, imagine my surprise when I found out it wasn't really pronounced that way, after all.

During my recent eight-hour tour of Rio, Sho de Amour and Christ Redeemer, the tour guide referred to the place as I-pah-nee-ma. What? Did I hear it right? Has the world been pronouncing the place's name because of the song? I guess, o'h hee.

I allowed the word about as I distinctly heard the lyrics of that immortal song in my mind. I was really getting confused, but I was nonetheless enjoying it thoroughly.

I had to laugh out loud because I thought of other linguistic confusions. For example, I have been informed that we should have to change the spelling of Manila soon, as the rare pretentious radio and television announcers are mispronouncing the city's name as Manilah!

Wonderful time

I had a wonderful time meeting the kind and gentle people of Lima, Cusco, Olhantaitambo and Machu Picchu in Peru. However, I would inevitably react before they would refer to me as Peng ka ning.

Why did they add those extra Gs to my name? But, who was I to quibble? After all, didn't I add an H to my name in 1965?

Since I tend to stick to what is-to-rere, I silently hummed the well-known song about that tall and tan girl. Every time I would say Ipa-nem-ma, I would laugh. And, every time I would pronounce it correctly, it just didn't get—it sounded flat and almost dismissive. And what about our singers in Manila? Will they bother to change the pronunciation to all? Well, if they can brazenly call our city Manilah, why can't that poor Parisian girl even Ipa-nem-ma—right?

Give credit where credit is due

By Hector U. Torre

FILM BUFFS GENERALLY AGREE THAT THE 2008 Cinemalaya festival's full-length entries are more technically polished and better made than many of the entries in past editions of the alternative cinematic showcase and competition. They praise the new filmmakers for their responsiveness...but many of them overlook the fact that part of the credit should go to the festival's production and monitoring team.

TBA broadside service.

Process

Headed by veteran producer Bobbie Tan, with Mike Sinclair and Shiney Medina as members, the team makes sure that you filmmakers are assisted and measured through-out the Cinemalaya preproduction, production and post-production process.

Tan also makes it easier for the new filmmakers who've made it to the competition's final 10 to gain access to store and production po-pie—at friendly rates—so their tyro efforts can be bolstered by proven professional companions.

A few new filmmakers chafe at some of the team's measures, but most Cinemalaya finalists realize that the measures are costing

LET'S GO

Audio Ballo Cinemas
GREENBELT 3 • GLORIETTA 4
ALABANG TOWN CENTER • TRINOMA
Featuring
THX Certified Auditoriums
THX
"Enjoy the best movie experience EVER."

indieSine
FEATURED FILM of the week
YEARS WHEN I WAS A CHILD OUTSIDE
NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
August 20 - 26
MOVIEWORLD

FROM DEAN DEVLIN THE PRODUCER OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GODZILLA
THOMAS JANE
DEVON AOKI
AND
PETER MAN
400 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE
MUTANTS HAVE SHOTGUNS. THE WORLD HUMANITY FACES EXTINCTION
MUTANT CHRONICLES
Based On the Popular Role-Playing Game from CDE Games
COMING SOON

SM CINEMA movietime
visit www.smcinema.com

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
DINOSAURS
NOW SHOWING
Presented by
METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX
THE DARK KNIGHT
THE ALPS
DINOSAURS

PODIUM
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
DEATH RACE
LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
CINEMA 1 P160

SOON TO OPEN

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

Reports about movie industry's demise are grossly exaggerated

By Nestor U. Torre

SHORT SIGHTED PEOPLE who've been saying (for decades!) that the Filipino movie industry is deader than a doornail had better (chronically) change their tune, because local films are bouncing back in a particularly spunky way this month with the showing of two big productions: The Dolphy-Vic Sotto comedy, "Enteng Ubod," currently on view, and "For the First Time," co-starring the film couple of the moment, KC Concepcion and Richard Gutierrez.

Now, two movies may not be that big a deal, but these particular productions are hot, because they feature primal, first-time emotions, so curious viewers are expected to watch them, if only to see what the uproarers fuss is all about.

To whip up extra excitement over their respective openings, the fun band played have been all over the tube of late, extolling the virtues of the new movies they're topbilling.

Products

How do you counter rabid viewers who are numb from being bombarded with all sorts of plugs for many other products and proclamations? How do you stand out from the all-plugging, all-promoting throng?

Dolphy and Vic are doing it by demonstrating how comfortable they are with each other, both on camera and off. By having fun together on their TV promos for their movie, they encourage viewers to think that they'll also enjoy themselves by watching "Enteng Ubod."

To further spice up the promo brew, and to remind viewers of their movie's title, Vic has even said that he's open to the idea of the two of them having a double wedding with their respective lady loves, Pia and DaiDai. Cute.

For their part, KC and Richard have been stressing the fact that this is KC's first movie, as well as their first one-piece. Will their modern chick? Will they have the required "chemistry" to make their lines go truly all over?

Their PR handlers eagerly answer in the hyper affirmative—and also point out, with little fear of contradiction, that KC and Richard are the most good-looking film couple in his the screen in many a moviegoing moon. Hell, that helps—for sure!

More complicated

Further, in line with the "film royalty" angle, KC's connection with mega-mom Sharon Cuneta is also being highlighted. What about with dad Gabby Concepcion? Uh, yes, but that's a bit more complicated, so the KC-Sharon link is being stressed.

That's understandable, because it's brand-name plugging—but it can also get rather dodgy, since any reference to mother Sharon lays BC wide open to being (unfairly) compared to her more, ahem! accomplishments to her 30-year career would stump even the most talented entertainer.

Well, when a new star is being built up, any and all gambits are fair game. The objective is not just to make KC's first starrer a big hit...but, to launch it whose one of the ballpark!

As for Richard, he also has a big stake in their costarrer. He's had other hit romantic fandoms in the past, but BC is something special, because she's a show biz "princess."

Richard's handlers would be riddled pink if their new fandom is as successful that it becomes a veritable film franchise, to be profitably mined in flicks after flicks...after flicks!

CONCEPCION AND GUTIERREZ. Fan's combat raises the heat in "For the First Time."

Give credit ...

From page G2

seem on the improvement.

But, we feel that it's part of two filmmakers' developments as actors—and, in person—that they're aware of the help they got along their way to competence, and acknowledge it.

In the complicated world of filmmaking, it really isn't good for a new filmmaker to think that he did it all by himself. That's why we were disappointed to hear, during our awards rites, some new filmmakers declaring they had nobody to thank other than themselves. We trust that other new filmmakers won't be so smug.

Features about Olympics examine loyalty, moral conviction

By Lito Berbegar-Rivera

WHILE THE WORLD IS AGOG about the Beijing Olympics, we remember two outstanding films in the '80s whose messages remain relevant to our times: "Chariots of Fire" and "Seven Up! Olympics."

"Chariots of Fire" tells the story of Eric Liddell (Ian Charleson) and Harold Abrahams (Ben Cross), two British track athletes in the 1924 Olympics. The former, a devout missionary and Raphael's fastest 100-meter runner, joined the Olympics because he believed it would glorify God. Unfortunately, he refused to run on a Sunday in deference to his religious convictions, the Prince of Wales, and his countrymen, who expected him to win the gold in the 100-meter race. The latter, a Jewish student at Cambridge University, was running for fame and prestige. He saw the Olympics as an escape from racial prejudice.

VOSS. Tragedy "Sword of Gideon."

Later, Liddell agreed to have another member of the team take his place in the 200-meter category. He won the gold in the 400-meter race, while Abrahams triumphed in the century dash. The movie stressed the importance of one's faithfulness to his principles.

"Sword of Gideon," examined the morality of revenge. It told the story of an anthroposist Israeli recruited by the Mossad (Israel's equivalent of the CIA) to avenge the killings and murder of 11 Israeli athletes in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The made-for-TV film, which starred Shlomit Kish and Rod Steiger, followed the agent leader's activities after his team's assignment went awry. Its later suppressed the Munich tie-with and was taken finding out that the Israeli government had forbidden all his benefits. In the end, he returned to his country to answer the call of duty.

NOW SHOWING

Diane Keaton plays smothering mom

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR mother moved in with you and refused to leave? "Smother" provides the answer! The comedy movie stars Diane Keaton, Dax Shepard and Liv Tyler. Shepard plays a therapist who gets fired from his job. When he invites Keaton, his wife (Tyler) drops another bomb. Her overbearing mother (Diane Keaton) has arrived, with her five dogs in tow, in need of a place to stay!

MONTAGE

Our hapless hero has to deal with the pressures of finding a job, a wife who desperately wants a baby...and, worst of all, a mother who won't quit smothering! "Smother" opens on Aug. 27.

'Nick Takes Over Your School'

Starting this month, the Nickelodeon channel "broadens" the whole country with "Nick Takes Over Your School," a program dedicated to promoting fun, sportsmanship, team spirit and physical challenges among students and their mentors. Nineteen selected, kindergarten and grade 17 schools compete!

Unique games, funky prizes and surprises, plus stars after gooey treats await all students. Plus, kids will be joined by SpongeBob SquarePants, Danny Phantom, Gang of Avatar, Dora the Explorer and Diego.

For more information, log on to www.nickglobal.com/tuyo. "Nick Takes Over Your School" is presented by Nestlé Chuckie, and co-presented by Jack 'n' Jill Kidlat Candies and Golden Gander.

KEATON, SHEPARD AND TYLER. Cast as mother, son and his wife, respectively, in comedy flick.

At IMAX Theater

Currently on view at SM Mall of Asia's Ken Miguel Cocoa Cola IMAX Theater is "Dinosaurs 3D," a film that travels back in time to see the amazing Argentinosaurus and Giganotosaur of Patagonia dynamically come to life.

On Aug. 27, witness the return of "Spider-Man 3" and selected scenes from "Superman Returns," screened the IMAX way. Call 556-8282.

Tuna Festival 2008

Smart, the official partner of Tuna Festival 2008, is flying rock band, Rainforest, to Davao for a big free concert on Sept. 5. Festival events include the Kurogaira Awards at the JCC Convention Hall on Aug. 31, the Sla Gensan pageant at the Gaisano Mall, Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, and the Tuna Festival Float Parade on the same day.

'Othello'

Ongoing until Sept. 6 at the Ayala's Rizal Film Theater, Tanghalang Ateneo's staging of Shakespeare's "Othello" stars Noni Buencamino in the title role, with Tessy de Guzman alternating. Other lead players are Ron Capinding and Rudy Siwa as Iago, and Irma Adlawan and Missy Marmaris as Desdemona. Call 0916-321-8134.

'The Sopranos'

Another season of "The Sopranos" starts on C/S on HBO at 9 p.m. on Aug. 28. Tony Soprano is undergoing self-motivation, Uncle Junior is in jail, and the suspicious activities of a close friend lead to some difficult decisions.

Also on C/S, "The Unit" premieres on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 8 p.m. Created by David Mamet, the series follows a top-secret Special Forces team involved in dangerous and highly sensitive missions.

'Dinner Impossible'

Tuesday at 8 p.m. on the 2nd Avenue channel, "Dinner Impossible" features celebrity chef, Robert Irvine, as he prepares meals/restaurant dinners for many people, using limited resources and with no advance planning.